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THE MARTLET

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Caf food fails

David Karp

The University Centre Cafeteria received its second high-hazard rating in less than six months when a health inspector visited on Jan. 12. But a UVic manager is questioning the accuracy of the inspector's findings.

A routine inspection of the Centre Caf on Jan. 12 identified four "critical" violations.

"They are things that, if they are not attended to, may lead to a food-borne illness," explained Gary Gibson, supervisor of environmental health for the Vancouver Island Health Authority.

The health inspector noticed salad not being kept cold enough, lamb kabobs not being kept warm enough, hamburger patties not being probed for their internal temperature, a dirty walk-in produce cooler and dirty trolleys storing unused dishes.

However, the problems were fixed and the cafeteria was downgraded to a low hazard, the best rating possible, when the health inspector did a follow-up inspection two days later.

UVic food services manager Thomas Bain questioned some of the health inspector's findings — he suggested the health inspector's thermometer may not have been accurate. Bain noted the health inspector measured soup at Nibbles and Bytes (the engineering cafeteria) the next day, and a discrepancy arose.

"She waved her thermometer in my cook's face and said it was 121 [degrees F]. My cook went, 'No, no way. Impossible!' because we're measuring it four times a day," said Bain. "So [the cook] went and got her own thermometer, and the temperature was 149. So the health inspector goes, 'Oh, my thermometer must not be working.'"

Bain wonders if this is was the same thermometer the inspector used the previous day.

But Gibson said he was not aware of any thermometer problems, and said the health authority stands by its measurements.

"Our staff are in and out of facilties ... five days a week, so they are comparing the temperatures that they are getting to lots of different thermometers throughout the district," Gibson said. "At the first sign of there being an inconsistency, we'd either recalibrate that unit, or if it couldn't be calibrated, we'd toss it."

Bain also said the health inspector told UVic to use a probe thermometer to check the temperature of every hamburger during her initial visit, but on the follow-up

See UVic questions, p. 2

TOUGH STUFF

JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

UVic kickboxers (from left) Alan Chou, Hal Kreisel, Gabriel Varga, Aaron Varga and Brian Chou will compete at Victoria Dance Connection.

Students reach for kickboxing titles

Jonathon Wolsey

Five UVic students will enter the ring this Saturday, Jan. 24, with one goal in mind — to have their hands raised as champions by the final bell.

The 400-seat kickboxing event held at the Victoria Dance Connection studio will feature nine fights of modified Muay Thai boxing with four Canadian titles up for grabs. The highlight of the night will be Gabriel Varga contending for the world super-lightweight International Sport Kickboxing Association's (ISKA) title.

Hal Kreisel will fight for the middleweight Canadian title, while Aaron Varga will compete for the light welterweight Canadian title. The Chou brothers Alan and Brian will also bout, with Alan set to make his first appearance in the ring while his older brother makes his first appearance in three years.

Muay Thai may be a deeply-entrenched tradition in Thailand's culture, but kickboxing (which evolved from the sport) is a relatively new concept for Canadians — the Muay Thai ancient boxing style incorporates the head, fists, elbows, knees and feet.

Aaron Varga explained that Saturday's fight is slightly modified from Thailand's traditional style.

"We do more of a modified Muay Thai, which allows low kicks and [allows us] to throw knees," he explained.

Kickboxing has been the shadow sport in the world of martial arts in recent years. With fighting celebrities such as Floyd Mayweather, Manny Pacquiao, George St. Pierre and Tito Ortiz, it's easy to see why kickboxing has taken a back seat in media coverage.

Promotional campaigns by big names like Oscar De La Hoya's Golden Boy Productions, The Ultimate Fighting Challenge (UFC) and K-1 two Mix Martial Art (MMA) promoters have put kickboxing on the back burners.

For local kickboxer Kreisel, however, there are number of aspects overlooked in kickboxing.

"Boxing is more about the money. For the MMA average fan, it is more about seeing two guys beat the hell out of each other," he said. "But in Kickboxing, there is a lot more respect. I think it is a true martial art. Even though it is an individual sport, we are a team. We train like a team and we all help each other."

At 23 years of age, UVic Biology student Alan Chou will enter the ring for the first time Saturday.

"I am pretty anxious and pretty nervous," Chou said. "But I am excited to do it. It's been a long time coming, and I have been waiting a long time to do something like this."

See Students step, p. 20

David Turpin to reapply for presidency

Kat Eschner

UVic, meet your new president — he just may be same as your old one. David Turpin's term in office finishes August 2010, but he might not leave the captain's chair.

Since first coming to the job in 2000, Turpin has served two terms as president. Policy surrounding the election of a UVic president says that two terms are normal, but University Secretary Julia Eastman said a third term is probable for Turpin.

"The Board of Governors basically decided that in light of Dave Turpin's record, the challenges and opportunities facing the university and the competition between universities for good presidents, if he was interested in standing for a third term, he should be reviewed," Eastman said.

Turpin is willing to serve a third term, according to a UVic press release.

Under Section 27 of the University Act, a search committee made up of nominees from every major body in the university community is being formed to look at Turpin's potential for reappointment.

UVic Student Society Chair Caitlin Meggs is occupying the undergrad student society committee seat. UVSS Director of Finance Tracy Ho is also part of the search, as is one of the Senate's representatives.

The committee will look at a number of factors, including Turpin's CV and how his past performance measured up to criteria created when he came to office. The Act also requires that "the results of consultation with individuals and constituency groups" be taken into account. However, Eastman could not shed light on how the search committee would source community opinion.

Gatherings of the search committee are supposed to take place in closed meetings, and Turpin may not speak to the press regarding his potential reappointment.

"The rules make clear that people sort of commit to confidentiality about the content of the discussion," said Eastman.

The process is expected to take about two months. At the end of that time, the search committee will decide whether or not they want to keep Turpin on by majority vote, and will take their recommendation to the Board of Governors, who hold hiring power.

The board is headed by Ray Protti, who also chairs the search committee.

JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

UVic president David Turpin will be reviewed for a third term of his job.

Continued from p. 1

JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

Centre Caf received a high-hazard rating in an inspection last week.

UVic questions inspector's gadget

visit said they only had to check a sample of burgers. Bain said that prior to Jan. 12, UVic had never been told to check every patty, but the university has since started taking the temperature of a sample of hamburgers.

"I thought it was a little harsh to be given a critical rating on something they just told us we had to be doing," Bain said.

He noted it would be time consuming and difficult to check every hamburger because it is hard to fit a thermometer into a small burger patty.

"We tried it, and of course it goes right through and it's not an accurate reading," Bain said. "We had never been told [we had to do the check] before."

The other critical violation was for the cafeteria's walk-in produce cooler not being clean. Bain said the university has now put in place a regular cleaning schedule for its equipment. In addition, salad has been moved away from the warm entrées to help keep it cold.

Gibson estimated 10 to 15 per cent of inspections result in a high-hazard rating, and said the speed of response to the problems is important.

"If anything, UVic students should be quite happy that those issues were addressed quickly [within two days]," Gibson said.

Bain, who regularly eats at the Centre Cafeteria, said the outlet provides high-quality food.

"We do [serve] thousands of people a day, and we do a good job. We serve good food, and we take this very seriously," he said.

Bain said he has emailed his concerns about the inspection to the health authority. Gibson said a manager would look into any concerns presented.

Refugees get chance at education

Kim Magi

PROVIDED PHOTO

Members of WUSC UVic (from left) Jacqueline Right, Kate MacDonald and Heather Gordon are helping to bring refugees to UVic.

While most Canadians take education for granted, many people in developing countries don't even have the option of higher learning. The World University Service of Canada (WUSC) wants to make education a human right.

The UVic Student Refugee Program (SRP), a branch of WUSC, helps make that possible. They sponsor students from refugee camps in Kenya, Malawi or Thailand to study at UVic, using money collected with students' fees to cover rent, tuition, books, food and family visits.

"Most of the students come from the refugee camps of Kakuma and Dadaab [both in Kenya]," said WUSC spokesperson Rob Milchard. "These two camps ... are not a good environment to get an education. It becomes dangerous to go to school."

In 2006, a referendum passed through the UVic Student Society to raise the contribution to the SRP from 50 cents to $1.50 for undergraduates, and $1.50 to $2 for graduate students. Because of this, UVic was able to host three students for the first time last year.

All money that is collected from the levy goes directly to the students. For their first semester, students live in cluster housing, then for their second semester they can choose to find their own place or continue living where they are.

"The students that are coming are the cream of the crop," said Serina Zapf, UVic SRP Support Co-ordinator, explaining that the students who come to learn at UVic must go through a lengthy application process, as well as have the grades and language skills necessary to succeed in a Canadian university.

One problem that many of the students face in a Canadian classroom is the different cultural references that a professor may give to explain a concept, Zapf said.

Once the students get sponsorship, "they're no longer refugees," Zapf said. "They're citizens of Canada."

The students that come to UVic are chosen based on two things: confirmation that the school offers what they want to take, and whether or not they have friends or family in proximity.

"If they want to take aviation, they probably shouldn't come here," said Zapf, who also mentioned that while it's possible to find information on the students, including short biographies, the SRP at UVic never reads them because all students in the program deserve to be there.

"They're all my friends," Zapf said. "The students that come through here are incredible."

After their first year sponsorship, the students can apply for grants, WUSC SRP bursaries, student loans and jobs. While nationally there are more male students in the program, "at UVic we actually have more female students," Zapf said.

WUSC was first introduced 62 years ago, and started the SRP in 1978. UVic has been involved for 27 years.

"We have local committees on 76 campuses," said Milchard. He said that some universities have levies upwards of $3.00, so they're able to sponsor more students.

As a part of the program, the students can choose to remain anonymous and not talk to the media about their experiences. The Martlet was not able to contact any of UVic's current SRP students.

On Jan. 31, WUSC will be holding a forum titled, "Unpacking 'Universal Education,'" which will be looking at the concept of education as a human right. The event will be held in Vertigo from 5 to 9 p.m.

At UVic, there are six to 10 volunteers that directly associate with the students in the SRP. More volunteers are always welcome, and can start by coming to their weekly meeting on Fridays at 3:30 p.m. in SUB room, B025.

CORRECTION

Last week's Nine Inch Nails story on page 15 was co-written by both Josh Thompson and Jaime Fennell. Great work on the collaborative effort, team.

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News reviews

NAY!

Canadian student loan debt pushed past the $13 billion mark this week.

According to the Canadian Federation of Students, the average debt load for students in B.C. after graduation is $27,000. The group criticizes the government for raising tuition (more than 100 per cent in the past eight years for B.C.) and cutting back grants.

NAY!

Students at York University, determined to show their frustration for the ongoing teachers' strike, are refusing to pay their tuition until classes resume.

A "Don't Pay a Cent" campaign was launched by the York Federation of Students. But the action is unlikely to make any difference, according to York's Vice-President of Students Robert Tiffin.

He says the university postponed its payment deadlines in light of the strike, and students were never expected to pay second-term tuition until the university settles the wage dispute that has had students out of class since Nov. 6.

NAY!

A prof at the University of Ottawa has been banned from teaching after giving everybody in his fouth-year physics class an "A+".

Denis G. Rancourt is touted on U of O's science faculty website as an "activist, anarchist, and critical pedagogue." But his unconventional teaching methods haven't meshed well with the administration.

Rancourt is known for rejecting senate-approved course outlines in favour of experimental teaching methods like self-directed learning and cancelling grades.

While response from students was largely positive, the university has repeatedly reprimanded him. His dean has recently recommended the Board of Governors fire him.

YAY!

On Jan. 20, women everywhere shaved their coochies to celebrate no more Bush.

-Sam VanSchie

JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

Dressed like country stars, UVic law students took first place in the Law Games talent show. Find them on YouTube: "UVic's Law Games 2009."

Law students wow dance judges

Andrew Farris

UVic's delegation to the 2009 Law Games decisively proved that Victoria's prospective lawyers can out-dance any law students in the country — and they've got the YouTube video to prove it.

Of the 13 Canadian law schools who sent teams to the 25th annual Law Games, hosted this year by the University of Saskatchewan, UVic's 64-member team was by far the largest.

Dressed in denim and plaid, UVic rocked the talent show segment, "So You Think You're a Country Star" with wonderfully choreographed treatments of Cotton Eyed Joe and Sweet Home Alabama, defending their top-place dance spot in 2008.

"Last year, it was really exciting because we were the Cinderella story, but people could really see that as being flukey," said UVic's team captain Lia Preyde. "This year we raised the bar and showed that we are here to stay."

This year's theme, Urban Cowboy, worked well for the UVic delegation, whose team prepared an immaculately-choreographed dance routine for the show.

The 10 dancers composed their own country-themed moves and practiced rigorously in the lead-up to the games to repeat last year's talent show victory, when UVic took home the Spirit Cup.

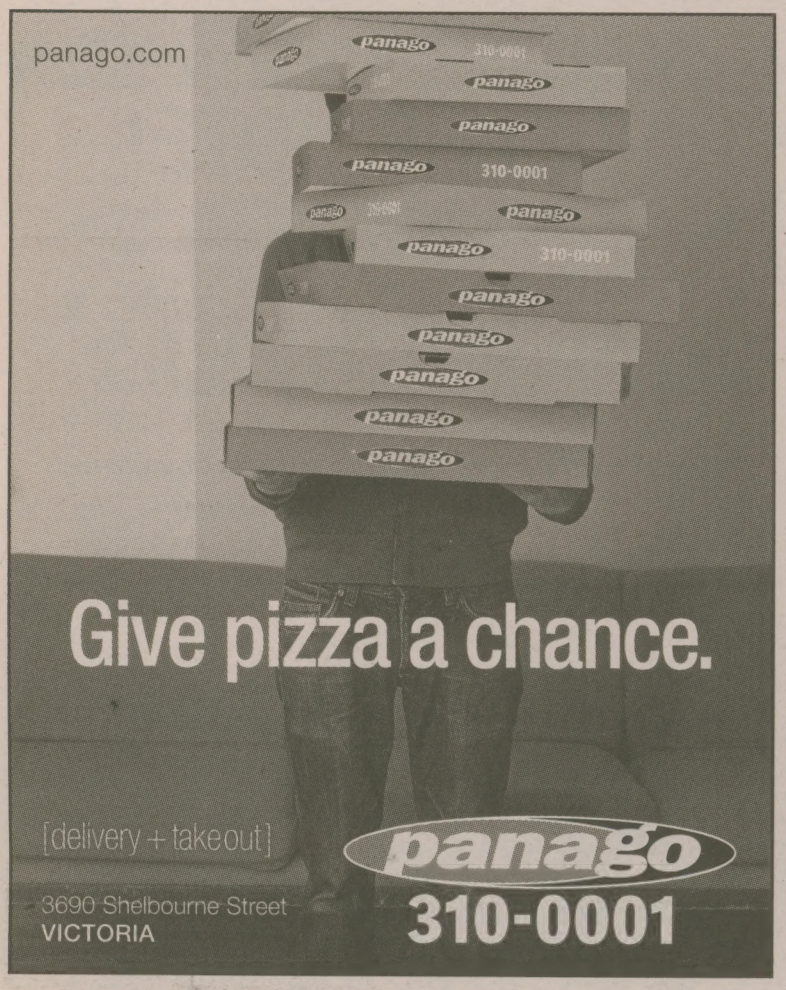
Last year's victory came about through a stellar dance accompaniment to Vanilla Ice, Cypress Hill and MC Hammer classics.

UVic students performed well, and thoroughly enjoyed the games, Preyde said — games which are meant as an opportunity for law students from all across Canada to network and have fun right before the kickoff of second term. UVic's team was successful in athletics, winning the indoor soccer, ice hockey and dodge ball competitions. But it wasn't enough to defend the Spirit Cup, which went home with McGill this year.

"Team members compete in sports during the day and party during the night," Preyde explained. Academic challenges were included to give the event some scholastic flavour.

For most law students though, merrymaking was the highlight of the Games, which went on virtually non-stop the four nights of the events. The tough rivalry between UVic and the Universite de Montreal on the playing field turned into a festive camaraderie on the pub crawl and themed night.

Preyde is already looking forward to the Law Games in 2010, where UVic is expected to make another great showing.



This week in Martlet history

Jan. 26, 1978 — The Representative Assembly of UVic's Alma Mater Society launched a campaign to push AMS President Brian Gardiner to withdraw the $53,000 of AMS funds from a floating account at the campus branch of the Bank of Montreal.

The Bank's executive officer and chairman, Fred McNeil, had stated that his bank was part of an international consortium that had loaned $3 billion to South Africa's Apartheid government and even more money to the military junta of General Augusto Pinochet in Chile.

The National Union of Students conference that Gardiner attended as UVic's representative had called on all student unions to withdraw their funds from the four Canadian banks because of their involvement with the consortium.

However, Gardiner said that it would be inconvenient for the AMS to withdraw its money, since there were no alternate banking facilities on campus.

A spokesperson for the withdrawl initiative counted the claim by suggesting that blacks in South Africa were also being inconvenienced by the repressive regimes that were getting loans from student-funded banks.

Jan. 28, 1988 — Investigations into a Jan. 15, 1988 rowing accident that claimed the lives of two UVic rowing team members was being conducted by the president's office even as the rowing teams resumed practice on Elk Lake.

The investigations were aimed at finding out what actually happened on the night of the accident and at recommending new safety procedures such as safety equipment upgrades and changes to practice habits.

UVic's president, Howard Petch, confirmed that although there had been gale force wind warnings issued for the Georgia Strait and the Strait of Juan de Fuca the evening of the accident, Elk Lake would not have been hit by such winds. Petch pointed out that Victoria is notorious for different wind behaviour in different locations.

Stories from the Martlet archives

Jan. 22, 1998 — Students wishing to attend the National Student Day of Action, on Jan. 28, found relief in a UVic Senate motion in support of the demonstration.

The Day of Action, meant to express student frustration with escalating student debt, would become grounds for academic concession if students informed their professors beforehand that they were going to attend the demonstration and if they agreed to reschedule any exams, quizzes and mandatory assignments scheduled during the rally.

The Senate only approved the motion after a lengthy 45-minute debate where concerns were raised that students wouldn't actually show up to the protest.

Some faculty members suggested that without a news photograph, complete with a time and a date in the corner, professors wouldn't know for sure if and absent student had attended the demonstration.

Some student senators were upset over the lack of trust displayed at the meeting, pointing out that student debt was coming to a crisis point and that 99 per cent of students were likely to show up to protest.

- Cody Willett

City campers take on bylaw

Kat Eschner

DARSHAN STEVENS PHOTO

Bylaws currently keep parks like Beacon Hill tent-free during the day.

Homeless people may have gained the right to erect nightly shelter in Victoria's parks, but some believe their right to sleep shouldn't be restricted to time of day.

Tent city advocates David Johnston, Kristen Woodruff and Tavis Dodds are waiting on the judge's response following a Dec. 31 hearing where they were prosecuted for challenging the city's bylaw enforcement regulations by camping during the day.

"This was after we'd been arrested for having a tent after 7 [a.m.] twice," said Johnston. "The Crown dropped those charges because they couldn't defend them in court. But the city kept giving out tickets even though they couldn't arrest people for it ... so they arrested us for a separate civil offense of collecting a number of bylaw tickets."

Johnston hopes concrete change will result from Justice Brian Mackenzie's verdict.

"The ideal solution is the judge comes out and tells the city that it can't prohibit sleeping during the day, and the city recognizes that there's something huge afoot and they have to do something about it," he said.

Woodruff is hoping for the same result, but is less committed to this specific court case. She believes more people will move to living collectively outdoors, and that the law will necessarily follow this change in lifestyle.

"I didn't want the whole thing to become confrontational," she said. "When I camped in Centennial Square and was in front of the courthouse, I just wanted to be available for dialogue. I think there's a reasonable way to handle this well for everyone."

Unlike Johnston, Woodruff said she is not in favour of tent cities.

"I think it's too many people sleeping in one place. I'm in favour of a few clusters of tents in parks across the city," Woodruff said.

But Johnston believes a full-time tent city can sustain itself. He says that just allowing people to sleep in temporary shelters between certain hours is not enough.

Likewise, he said a tent city would allow the overloaded system of service providers, like shelters, to focus on helping the worst off, while providing a social safety net in uncertain economic times.

"At the very least, more sturdy people can free up space in shelters. It's heartening to know that there's always a place you can go," Johnston said.

However, some of Victoria's shelter providers have reservations.

Rev. Alan Tysick of Our Place has concerns about the short-term solution of tent cities.

"I don't believe in tent cities. I believe Canada and B.C. is wealthy enough to afford real housing," Tysick said.

The Supreme Court decision was made based in part on the fact that the estimated number of homeless exceeded the number of shelter beds. However, the Cool Aid Society, who runs local emergency shelters, has had unoccupied beds on occasion throughout the winter.

Troy de Souza, who prosecuted the Dec. 31 court case, centred his case around this fact. However, Johnston says even if shelter beds are available, he'd prefer to sleep outdoors.

"I've never seen anything so healing as a tent city ... It's amazing how much people love the freedom of having their own home," Johnston said.

If the judge decides in the city's favour, Woodruff, Johnston and Dodds will be under injunction not to violate the bylaw for the period of one year.

"Going against [the injunction] would be contempt of court with up to six months jail time," said Johnston.

He said that, whatever the verdict, he will continue tenting during the day.

TENT LAWS TODAY

Putting up temporary shelter was legalized for homeless people in October 2008, following a Supreme Court ruling

Given an insufficient number of shelter beds in Victoria, Justice Carol Ross said not allowing temporary shelter violates of Section 7 of the Charter, the right to "life, liberty, and security of person."

The city responded to this ruling by changing the enforcement regulations to allow homeless people to set up temporary shelter between the hours of 9 p.m. and 7 a.m. This was later changed to between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. The city has appealed the ruling.

The Dec. 31 court case raised questions about the legitimacy of placing a time restriction on the Supreme Court ruling.

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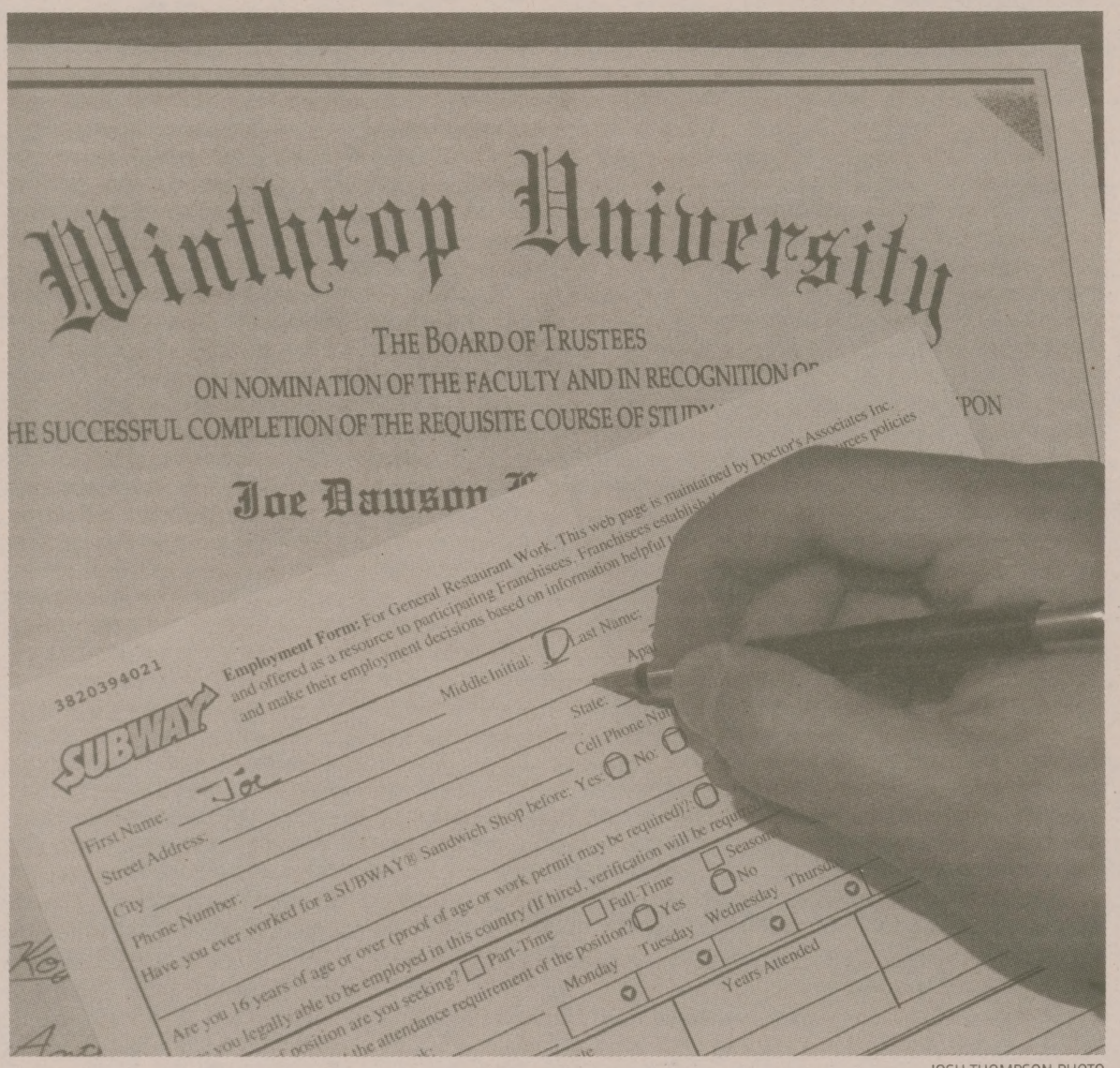
Graduating soon? Rethink hitting the job market

Gemma Karstens-Smith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JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

University grads of '09 may have to settle for lower paying jobs for at least a year, says an economics prof.

As recently as last April, university students looked forward to finishing their degree and moving on to high-paying jobs. This year, however, due to the economic slowdown, finding those jobs is going to be much more difficult.

"It could be a pretty severe recession that we see in Canada," said UVic economics professor Herbert Schuetze, who specializes in labour economics. "Things are going to be tough for awhile."

Effects of the recession in the U.S. have recently become apparent in Canada, and companies are responding to the economic crunch with layoffs and hiring freezes. According to Statistics Canada, 34,000 jobs were lost across Canada in December, resulting in the national unemployment rate rising from 6.3 from 6.6 per cent.

The loss of job opportunities hit Canadian youths aged 15 to 24 especially hard, according to Statistics Canada. The unemployment rate for youths grew to 12.9 per cent in December, up 1.8 percentage points from a year before. Youth unemployment rose more than any other demographic in 2008.

"I think for students it's going to be eye-opening. Students who've been coming up for the last number of years have had it really well," said Schuetze.

But UVic students don't seem overly concerned about their job prospects, preferring to be cautious over fearful.

"I'm not too worried," said fourth-year science student Jennifer Sawatzky, who plans on graduating in December 2009 and has already spent two summers working in her field. "Having said that, if I'm offered a job [right away] I'm going to take it hands down. I'm worried that if I take time off to go travelling like I've been dying to do, I might pass up an opportunity to actually get a job in my field."

For fourth-year history student Tyrel Meredith, the economic slowdown is a push toward continuing his education after completing his undergraduate degree.

"The economic crisis hasn't necessarily made me nervous, but it has made me re-evaluate my post-grad plans," said Meredith, who plans to graduate this April. "Now more than ever the necessity of returning to school after I graduate is apparent. Hoping I'll fall ass backwards into a good job no longer seems even slightly realistic."

Schuetze says that there are two factors at play in the economy right now. First, the economic slowdown is causing companies to stop hiring, which is bad news for students getting ready to graduate. Not only are companies not hiring, but layoffs often start with younger employees because they have yet to develop skills specific to the company. Unions also protect more senior workers.

According to Schuetze, the current economy will affect students not only now, but for years to come.

"There is some evidence that suggests that when you graduate in a recession, there's some sort of scaring that goes on," Schuetze said. "It carries on throughout your life cycle in the labour market."

The second factor, however, should give students a glimmer of hope. The baby boom generation is leaving the work force, even if the current recession pushes their retirement plans back a year or two.

"As markets rebound and things adjust, there'll be lots of opportunities for students," said Schuetze.

The Bank of Canada predicts that the economy will recover in 2010. While Schuetze says that's a reasonable prediction, he notes that jobs for students won't be available right away.

"Any prediction is based on looking into a crystal ball," he said. "2010 sounds reasonable, but you never know until things play out. The graduating class of 2011 might look OK, but then they're competing with all the students who couldn't find jobs."

In the meantime, he suggests that students look into continuing their education. "If you're thinking about doing grad school, now would probably be a good time," said Schuetze.

Norah McRae, executive director of UVic's co-op program, says students should network, focus on transferable skills and stay informed about what's happening with employers to boost their chances of finding a good job. She suggests looking in to joining a co-op program.

"Participating in co-op will help students get access to jobs related to their studies, develop transferable skills and build their network," McRae said in an e-mail interview.

For students not involved in co-op, she suggests looking at job postings through UVic Career Services, or taking advantage of the career educators available through Career Services, who can provide students with individual coaching. Another resource McRae suggests is the UVic Career Fair, taking place Feb. 4 and 5 in the SUB.

"A key message here is that it is not too soon to start, and that being successful will involve both personal action and tapping into resources on and off campus," said McRae.

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People struggle to keep up with Gaza facts

If you know the truth, correct people, says UVic International Socialist member Lisa Karoway

David Bell

The crisis in Gaza has gotten constant press coverage. In the first 20 days of the conflict, the world watched the Palestinian death toll reach 1,210 people — including 410 children.

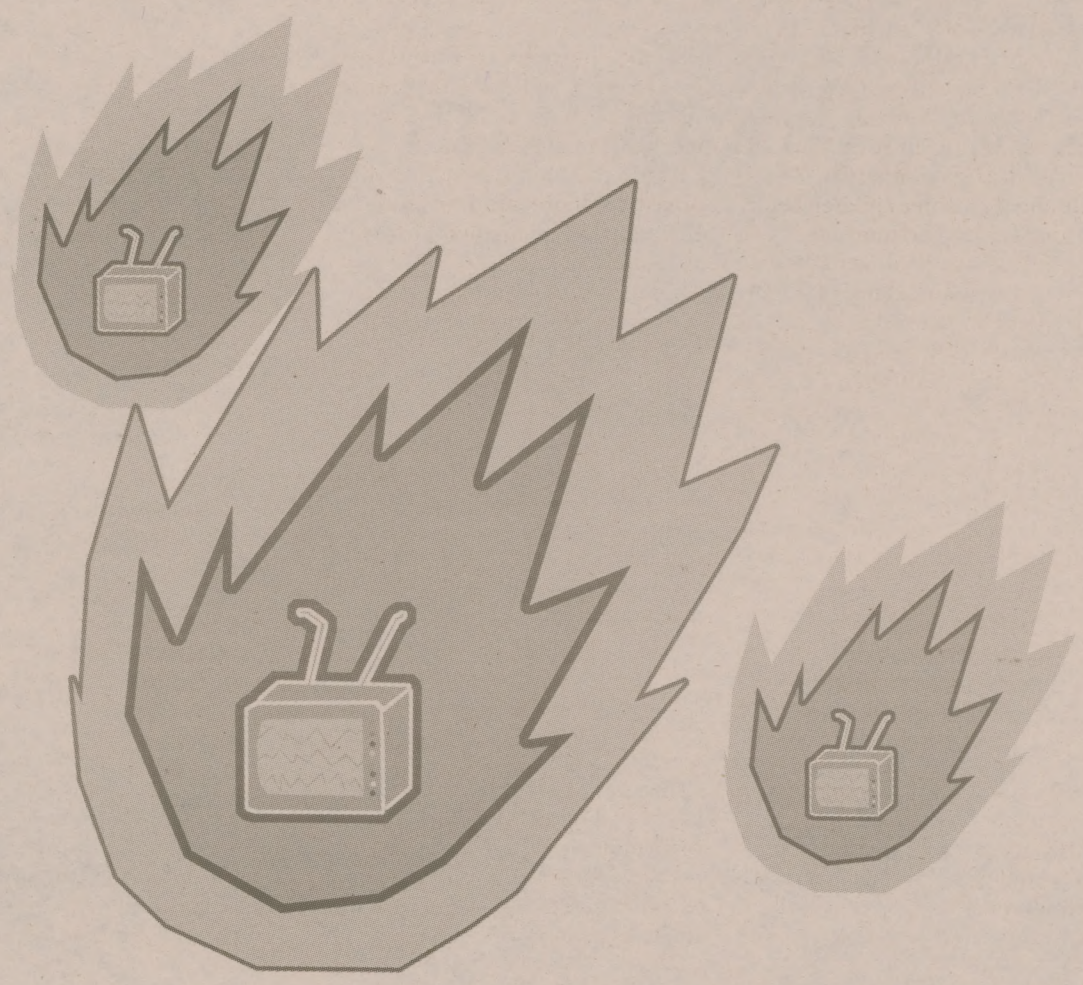
Students half way around the world might find it infuriating to read about the conflict, feeling as though there is nothing they can do to help.

But Lisa Karoway believes students can help. Karoway is associated with the UVic International Socialists (IS), and while their motto may be "Peace, Equality, Justice, Socialism," the tag "Anti-War" may fit just as well — after all, the UVic IS firmly believe nearly all wars are a result of capitalism.

"There are things we can do even though we're so far away," said Karoway. "The simplest of it is standing in solidarity with the people that are being targeted."

Karoway explains that building a movement of solidarity can play a significant role in changing public perception, and in pressuring our leaders as well as the international community.

"When people come out — and especially when it happens all around the world — that says something," Karoway said. "Even if it doesn't instantly make the changes that you want to change, it's building up people's hope and their confidence in themselves, and the ability for them to do something."



JENNIFER ZHOU GRAPHIC

Student and community action has already taken place in Victoria. On Jan. 10, hundreds of people met downtown for a rally to call for an end to the violence. Supporters of both Israel and Palestine stood together on the streets, sending a strong message that differences can be set aside in the name of peace.

After the rally, Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) handed out leaflets to the public, along with the hard facts on the conflict.

"One of the biggest things that we're facing right now is a battle of information, and the misinformation that's out there," said Karoway. "[There's] a lot of rhetoric that's being put out by different sides."

Karoway stressed that one of the most effective actions students can take to help is to make sure people are getting their facts straight.

She suggested that if someone says something you know to be false, correct them — if your prof is speaking in half-truths, speak up. Informed opinions on the conflict can only be formed when people can back up their feelings with fact.

For students looking to take stronger action, the UVic IS is hosting a lecture on Jan. 26, titled, "Can There Be Peace in the Middle East?" Guest speakers will be followed by group discussions where new ideas are encouraged. The lecture takes place at 7 p.m. in room C108 of the David Strong Building.

For students who are uncomfortable with group action and rallies, taking a stand can be as personal as wearing a handkerchief.

The SDS is handing out handkerchiefs with peace signs on them for people to show their solidarity, not only for the people in Gaza, but for those who are struggling with war all over the world.

Tie it on your bag or wear it on your wrist — this small act can raise awareness and bring people a little closer together.

As television and the Internet give way to the 24-hour news cycle, the world is quite literally watching. If the SDS is any indication, students can take comfort in remembering that no action is too small, no cry for peace is left unheard and every student has a voice.

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Economic stimulus planned

Adam Duron

Like the U.S., which celebrated the long-awaited arrival of optimism in President Barack Obama on Jan. 20, Canadians still find themselves worried by the most unstable economic situation in generations — yet it's Canada that's suffering the political instability to go with it.

The fate of Harper's Conservative government hangs in the balance of Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's Jan. 27 budget, which will include efforts to stimulate the economy, recognize the demands of opposition party leaders and help Canadian citizens weather the economic storm.

Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff has taken a diplomatic approach in dealing with Harper on the budget by signaling his willingness to communicate his party's preferences and his unwillingness to reject out-of-hand any propositions offered by the Conservatives.

However, Ignatieff has confirmed that his party is working on a shadow budget to implement, should a Liberal-NDP coalition form government — an option if Flaherty fails to deliver a satisfactory stimulus package and the government is defeated on the budget vote.

The Prime Minister has said he wants to meet with Ignatieff before finalizing the budget's stimulus package in order to work out compromises, while NDP Leader Jack Layton has stated his party's intent to vote against the Conservative's budget on the grounds that the prime minister can't be trusted.

Various government spokespersons have suggested that details are being worked out on plans to incur a $30-40 billion deficit that will fund "shovel-ready" infrastructure projects, make employment insurance benefits more easily drawn upon, retain threatened jobs and aid struggling industries.

Harper has suggested that broad-based tax cuts for the middle class are also being contemplated for the stimulus package.

While Harper says that middle-income Canadians should receive the tax cuts because they have been most affected by the economic crisis, Ignatieff maintains that the largest tax cuts should go to low-income Canadians, as many economists agree that they will put more of that money back into the economy through personal spending.

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Financial crisis could mean more suicides: prof

Teresa Smith
THE CONCORDIAN

MONTREAL (CUP) – Insecurity caused by the effects of global financial slowdown could be behind a growing number of suicides, say experts.

Dr. Margaret Chan, director general of the World Health Organization, says people should not be surprised if the number of suicides and mental disorders worldwide goes up as the severity of the financial crisis becomes clear.

However, at a meeting of mental health care professionals in Geneva, Switzerland in October, she warned her colleagues against blaming the crisis for unrelated suicides.

"Simply because the financial crisis exists doesn't mean we can assume a higher number of cases of depressed persons. It's more complicated than that," Chan said.

Margie Mendell, vice president of the School of Community and Public Affairs at Concordia University in Montreal, agrees. "Suicide is not caused by the financial crisis itself, but maybe that's the tipping point. If you already have stress, excessive debt, precarious working conditions and you've just been laid off, that's a pretty negative set of circumstances," she said.

Relatives of a Chicoutimi, Que. couple, who made a murder-suicide pact after both lost their jobs before Christmas, say the pact may have been related to finances.

A German billionaire also committed suicide early in the new year after he lost millions on the stock market, and a businessman in California killed his mother-in-law, his wife and their three children before turning the gun on himself.

The U.S. National Suicide Prevention Hotline reported their service has received 60 per cent more calls this year than last. "Fear is the number one emotion we're hearing," a spokesperson for the hotline told Fortune Watch, a financial blog. "People are feeling hopeless and helpless because of the economic crisis, and many feel things aren't going to get better."

Now, many of the calls are from people who have lost their home, or their job, or who still have a job but can't meet the cost of living.

Mendell says all of these factors can lead to growing insecurities and a high level of despair among the general population.

"It's not reserved for one group – everybody is hit by this," she said.

However, she says that only in extreme cases, when the person is already mentally unstable or vulnerable, would suicide be the outcome.

It's a question of how much insecurity people can cope with, she says. If a person is afraid and they feel trapped, with no one to turn to, there are a number of coping mechanisms they can use.

But if they're already pre-disposed to depression or anxiety, the addition of financial insecurity can be toxic.

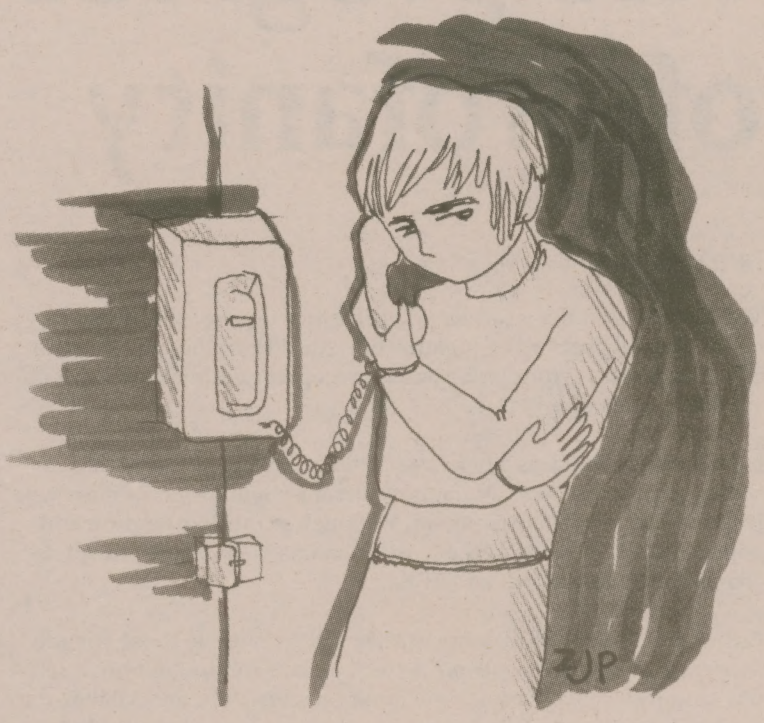
Mendell says politicians and the media are partly to blame for the widespread insecurity.

"Politicians need to start an ongoing, intelligent conversation with the public," she said.

She stresses that sincere communication, outlining the details of the crisis in a clear, direct way is imperative at a time like this in order to lessen insecurities and give people some hope.

"There needs to be a de-jargonization about the financial crisis – if people understand what's going on, they won't feel so overwhelmed," Mendell said.

Mendell believes the media should provide all the necessary information in a sober way, so people aren't terrified every time they pick up the paper or turn on the television.



JENNIFER ZHOU GRAPHIC

It's not all doom-and-gloom, however. Mendell quotes an old Chinese proverb: "Out of crisis, comes opportunity."

"With more information and education post-crisis, people will be less passive about their finances. They'll make sure they have the tools so this won't ever happen to them again," Mendell said.

Pipeline blasts trigger debate

Cody Willett

EnCana Corporation, North America's largest natural gas producer, has offered a $500,000 cash reward in hopes of finding those responsible for a series of pipeline, well-head and metering station bombings near Dawson Creek in northeastern B.C.

Three of the four bombings took place in the fall of 2008, with the fourth rattling area residents on Jan. 4. Local RCMP investigating the matter said that the bomber likely knows the area quite well and has been moving the bombing sites closer to inhabited areas around Tomslake, B.C.

EnCana's Executive Vice-President and President for the Canadian Foothills Division Mike Graham said the perpetrator was choosing more sophisticated targets for the bombings and was endangering both EnCana employees and nearby residents.

"It is fortunate that no one has been seriously hurt during the bombings, but if they continue, there is a serious risk of injuries or death," Graham said. "We would never want to see that happen."

Although fears of domestic eco-terrorism have raised concerns about public safety in the region, Charlotte Barrow, who recently graduated from UVic's Environmental Studies program, points out that frustration is an understandable reaction when large energy companies set up their operations without proper consultation. "Disempowerment can lead people to desperate actions," said Barrow, adding that energy companies often have no stake in the surrounding community and don't care about wreaking environmental havoc on local ecosystems.

However, Barrow stresses that eco-terrorism is ineffective in getting the anti-exploitation message across.

"Not only does it make the 'other side' less willing to negotiate, it also takes media attention away from the real message to focus on the violence," said Barrow. "Waging a public outreach campaign and organizing the electorate to pressure the government to provide better environmental regulations is a slower, but I believe more effective response."

– with files from Danielle Pope

CIVICS SPIELS

"This deficit is squarely Mr. Harper's responsibility. He spent us down to the red line in the good times, and so we face the hard times as citizens of a great country with the cupboard bare. This is his responsibility, not ours."

– Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff

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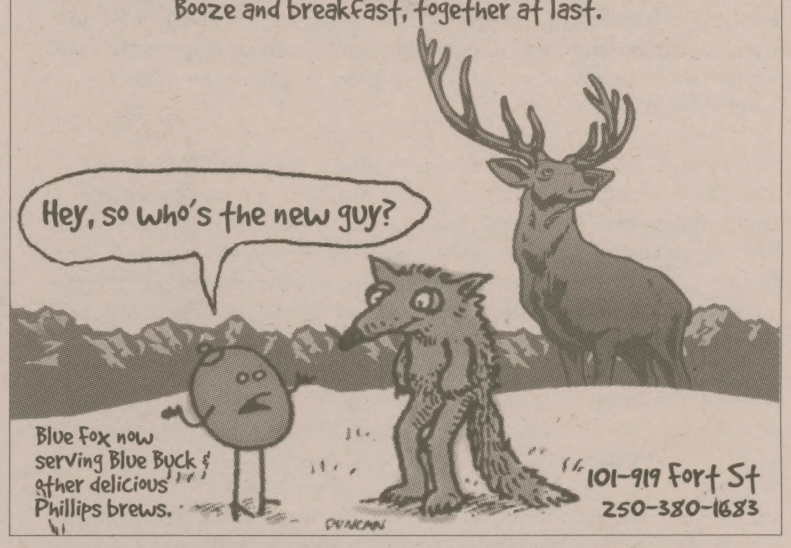

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EDITORIAL

The progress of profanity

People love to curse.

Whether unleashing a barrage of profanities during a crude story or cursing quietly under our breath while stuck in traffic, it is undeniable that fun little four letter words are a part of our culture — probably more than ever before.

Long gone are the days where saying "H-E-double-hockey-sticks" would raise an eyebrow. Profanity's blatant popularity now makes it almost more cool not to swear. We laugh at mock discretion and appreciate the humour in those who channel Napoleon Dynamite's "dang!" and throw down an "eff that."

But what happens when we swear like sailors outside those friendly conversations with our peers? Is there a place for profanity in a serious newspaper publication? You don't see the Globe and Mail or the Times Colonist dropping f-bombs in their news stories. Sure you can find smutty words sprinkled here and there in today's bestselling books and magazines, but you sure don't find it in the mainstream news media.

Maybe there's still some respect left for the polite folk in our social fabric who'd like us to remember that just because our sensitivities have changed, it doesn't mean we have the right to subject everyone to our controversial sensibilities.

Alternative media, on the other hand, is a whole other story — right?

Alternative publications are meant to reach an audience that doesn't wax poetic about the days where "damn it" really meant you wished someone or something an eternal rot in H-E-double-hockey-sticks.

Some say that underground media is aimed at a generation of people who wear their moral constraints more loosely, are more accepting of alternate forms of expression and don't care how they get their fill of information, so long as they can relate to it. But this forces the question: if we accept that swearing is simply a part of how we engage each other, are there any limits on the appropriateness of our language — and who gets to decide what's appropriate and what's not?

After all, the argument can be made that even if the younger generation chooses to accept dirty words as commonplace in what we read, our publications still leave lasting impressions to the outside community. The language we use can certainly embarrass members of our own diverse society. But is that a good enough reason to censor ourselves?

There are words that a clear majority of us would say are off-limits. Racial epithets and sexuality slurs that might not have been so offensive to past generations have become the new tome of classlessness. There's still sensitivity among us — it's just borne of new social realities. Now we're less concerned about naughty words and semantics than we are about focusing our negative attention on hateful ideas and bigotry.

But, back to what does and doesn't belong in the public domain. The place for linguistic frivolity may not be in a hard news piece about conflict in the Middle East, but it absolutely makes sense in a lifestyle or opinion article. While the first is supposed to be just the facts — no need for colourful emphasis and loaded bias — often the latter can't portray the culture it's describing without some forceful swears.

Yet the lines blur grey, as they tend to do with anything. Newsworthy stories aren't always meant to be serious and lifestyle pieces aren't just flippant as a rule.

Ultimately, alternative media is a place for experimentation. We get to ask ourselves and our readers what works through trial and error. Barriers are tested and creativity is nurtured every time the conventions, including word use, are fiddled with.

And if a couple objectionable words start popping up in our discourse, it's no reason to panic. It's just the sound of progress.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at our weekly editorial meeting at 2:30 p.m. every Friday in the Martlet office (SUB B011). Editorials are written by one or more staff members and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

FOOD BANK SHORTAGE

JENNIFER ZHOU GRAPHIC

LETTERS

UVSS misses the point

The decision by the UVSS to refuse funding for Youth Protecting Youth is another example of priggish liberals relying on emotion and majority opinion to conflate the issue.

Most students support the action not because they support constitutional infractions but because they believe women have the right to abort children. The issue is not the right to abort children; the issue is censorship.

I have listened as liberals argue, "Why should my student fees fund the YPY when I don't agree with them?" Why do any clubs receive funding? Students disagree with conservatism, liberalism, eco-activism, our monetary system, and yet clubs that represent these ideas generally receive funding.

Who can blame the UVSS? They cater to an unthinking group who mark "progressive" on a survey without investigating how the word might be abused.

If the board is consistent, it will remove funding from every club with conservative or religious association. That will solve something, won't it?

Garth Martens
UVic student

Let good English prevail

I picked up the Jan. 8 issue of the Martlet today at a community recreation centre.

I was horrified to read the headline on page 3 commenting on the record snowfall.

Do you not think that a writer/editor of a university paper would have many more words at her disposal than the word "shit"?

If your intent was to denote surprise at the amount of snow, perhaps some of the following words would suffice to precede the rest of the headline: amazing, shocking, awesome, astonishing, spectacular, fabulous, breathtaking, wondrous, wonderful, unforeseen ... just to name a few.

One of these words would still draw attention to the article and it would better compliment the peaceful and tranquil picture that accompanied the article.

Furthermore, in the text of the article, there are the following phrases: "Hell of a lot of snow" and "freezing your asses off."

You may argue that this is the way students speak and the paper is intended to communicate with students. However sad and true that may be, shame on you for printing it. The English language is masequered [*sic*] all too often.

My intent in writing this is to honour the memory of my high school English teacher who recently died at the age of 96 and wrote a column in my hometown paper until the week before she died. Surely she'd be rolling in her grave had she the misfortune to have seen this article.

Margaret Robb
Community member

Floercke's letter out of line

I'm writing in response to Alexander Floercke's letter, "Embarrassed by profanity" in the January 15 Martlet.

Mr. Floercke, UVic's Director of Corporate Relations, commented on Tanysia Komers's article, "My battles with granolafication": "I did not finish it [...] however I found that the amount of profanity truly turned me off reading the rest of it." (Ms. Komers's article contains two swear words, one of them near the end.) As well, Mr. Floercke says he's "embarrassed that this was published at UVic."

I take issue, not with the nature of Mr. Floercke's criticism, but with the direction it comes from. The Martlet is written mainly by UVic students and is intended to inform, entertain and hopefully enlighten students and the UVic community. I do not see the Martlet's purpose as being to advertise or provide good PR for the university.

David J. A. Foster
UVic student

Children are essential

RE: "We're having sex, not kids", the Jan. 7 editorial birthed some questions for me.

I support informed and responsible decision-making, and agree there is much to celebrate in life. As for the support of the freedom for all in society, I understood children to be an essential part of society.

This leaves me questioning what those students training to become our future educators, pediatricians, children's authors and others who profoundly impact yet another generation will transfer into? Hmm, I'll have to think about that.

Karen Thompson
Community member

Bigoted editorial too white

Your recent editorial (Jan.9) suggests that "doomsayers" are concerned with "being overrun by the foreign hordes." Doomsayers should, in fact, read: "bigots."

To equate doom with a reduction of the "Canadian" population and an increase in immigration is to suggest that this scenario involves a legitimate threat to some perceived "Canadian-ness." This strongly implies, as does the "we who are not reproducing" narrative, that the Martlet represents a white heterosexual voice, catering to an audience of the same.

According to Stats Canada, the Canadian Aboriginal population grew six times faster than non-Aboriginal populations between 1996 and 2006.

Your article asks, "aren't we all immigrants?" That question belies Canadian history. If the population of Canada's First Nations is growing, and Aboriginal people are not fairly termed immigrants, who is this "we" you refer to?

One question that does not get addressed is where would the economy be without immigration? Without an influx of new people, our property prices would collapse and the workforce would be in turmoil.

The baby boomers are all retiring. Without immigration, rich white folk wouldn't be able to maintain their privileged status quo.

David Brown
UVic alumni

Happy? Sad?
Enraged? Engaged?

Tell us: letters@martlet.ca
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Happy Barack Obama Day

Elizabeth Marsh

When it comes to Barack Obama's inauguration, I am cautiously optimistic.

To be sure, his story is inspiring. Becoming the first black U.S. president is quite the accomplishment, and a tribute to the man's intelligence. Yes, he is smart, but he still annoyed me.

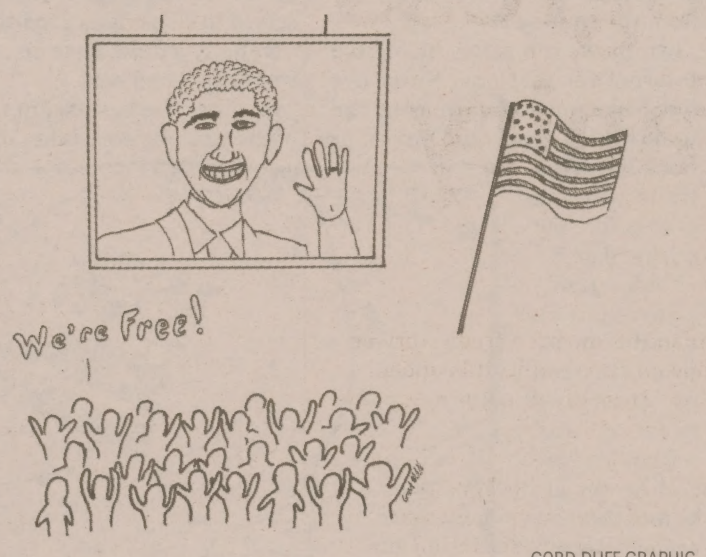
First off, I find slogans like "Yes we can," and "Change we can believe in" patronizing and demeaning to politics.

It seems a ploy to appeal to the lowest common denominator; dumbing down the complex workings of politics into grand gestures that are nothing more then sweeping generalizations.

Oh sure, it's the nature of the game; all politicians do it — even in Canada — but from Obama we expect more. He is supposed to single-handedly transform the face of U.S. politics.

This brings me to my second point. We are expecting too much from the guy. Intelligent, yes, but he's not some kind of messiah.

Many have compared Obama to Abraham Lincoln. Here's one reason why: Lincoln's predecessor, James Buchanan, is considered one of the worst U.S. presidents. Much like Bush, he manage to lead the country into financial disaster, deeply divided his country on political lines, but still had the gall to emphatically state "History will vindicate my legacy."



GORD DUFF GRAPHIC

Spooky.

To lead the U.S., and help the set the world on a better path, Obama will have to do more than pull a Lincoln. The world faces financial crises from here to Australia. The Middle East has been further destabilized, and Israel and Gaza are embroiled in a power struggle that is costing the lives of their people. Throw in global warming and, in short, the world is not a safe place.

Lincoln may have changed the tide of his country dramatically, but he did it at a time well before there was Internet, the global community or cars. How, then, can we expect Obama to be better than arguably the best U.S. president ever?

I'm going to stop watching the news. I've decided that trite soundbytes about hope aren't so bad. Besides, if Obama is able to bring even slight changes in the American economy, the rest of the world will follow.

The head of the federal reserve has called Obama's stimulus package "a good start."

That sounds hopeful.

Also, Obama is more proactive than Bush ever was when it comes to the environment. He has pledged $150 million over the next 10 years to be invested in green energy. As for the Iraq war and the Middle East in general, in the spirit of my new-found optimism, I won't talk about them. Messiah no, but smart guy, yes. So I will let myself get carried away with the excitement over Obama's inauguration.

> "From Obama we expect more. He is supposed to single-handedly transform the face of U.S politics."

Happy Obama day, everyone. Let's all go out and celebrate. After all, there are worse people to trust with the leadership of the free world than a Harvard graduate who can string two words together efficiently.

Maybe, just maybe, when it comes to saving the world, yes he can.

Oil, gas and mining — oh, my

Cody Willett

Someone in the B.C. government has a crush on Alberta's oil.

That must be why Premier Gordon Campbell adores his government's single largest revenue source, the oil and gas sector. After all, it paid B.C. $2.37 billion in 2007 alone. Not only is B.C.'s economy being retooled and aligned to one of the dirtiest industries out there, now we're getting hot and heavy in bed with mining interests.

According to the B.C. Liberals' online "Open Platform," mining exploration is up 1,300 per cent from 2001 — and we're not talking about the gold in them thar hills. Ten new metal and coal mines have opened or re-opened.

While Campbell lauds the investments his government has made in geosciences to spur future exploration, he's put our tax money where his mouth is by reducing corporate taxes and introducing tax credit programs in the industry to encourage more mining — for coal.

Mining corporations spent $367 million looking for valuable stuff to strip out of our soil in 2008. Minister of State for Mining Gordon Hogg said, "This is the second-highest total for exploration spending ever and just off 2007's record-setting pace." Hogg went on to say that over 20 new mine development proposals were in the works, including 14 metal mines, seven coal mines and three industrial mineral mines. Once again, coal.

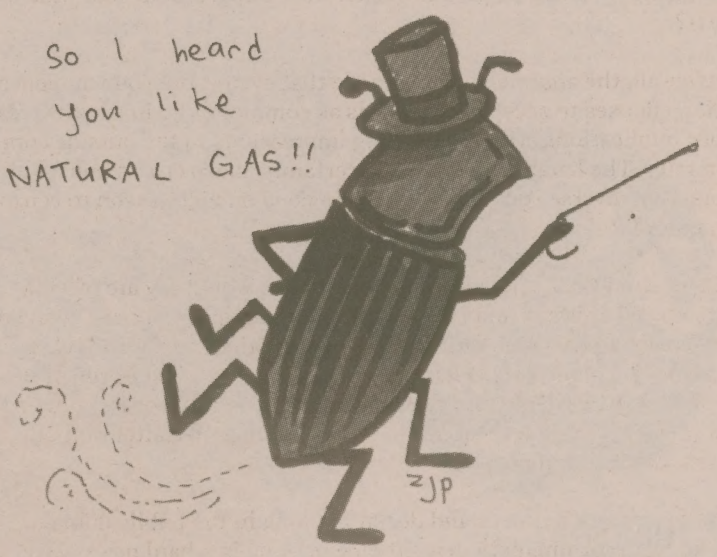
Up in North Eastern B.C., around Fort St. John, Fort Nelson and Tumbler Ridge, oil and gas corporations bought exclusive rights to drill for a record $2.66 billion in 2008. Former Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources Minister Richard Neufeld justified the massive industry expansion by saying, "In these times of global economic uncertainty, it is comforting that B.C.'s oil and gas industry provides funding that ensures the stability of health care, education and many other programs that sustain the well-being of British Columbians."

Touché. Yes, because the pine beetle infestation and the collapse of the U.S. housing market has killed B.C.'s largest renewable revenue source (forestry), we might as well give up on it and take comfort in funding everything with filthy non-renewable industries.

Back to the B.C. Liberal Open Platform: they're asking for public feedback on whether they should proceed with offshore oil and gas projects if the "science says it can be done in a safe, environmentally sound manner." They say that "British Columbians will continue to need oil and gas. It's used to make medicines, plastics, hybrid vehicles and many other daily necessities."

What a clever PR strategy. Say that offshore drilling creates jobs and helps build hybrid cars and people will forget that the science will never tell us that offshore drilling is environmentally safe. They'll go ahead with it anyway — there's too much money in it for the government and the party for Campbell to say no.

The Open Platform also says that the B.C. Liberal government has invested $640 million to combat the pine beetle, which has infested an area more than four times the size of Vancouver Island. The platform stresses that the mountain pine beetle outbreak will kill an estimated 80 per cent of B.C.'s pine forest by 2013, then points out that the industry has received more government help than any other industry. Finally, the platform asks if they should even help any more at all.



JENNIFER ZHOU GRAPHIC

It's encouraging to contemplate the effect Campbell's $300 million regional development trusts could have on small and rural communities aiming to diversify their economies so that they become more stable as the world economy shifts — unless you realize that what he really wants is for that trust money to "diversify" those economies toward oil, gas and mining.

The Campbell government just can't think about the big picture. The Premier tries to be the environmental champion by introducing a noble and gutsy carbon tax, but then attempts to dupe the public with his emission reduction targets.

Campbell committed to reducing greenhouse gas emission levels 33 per cent by 2020 based on 2007 as a base year. Supposedly this target will bring B.C. to 10 per cent below 1990 levels — even though he knows emissions rose more than 30 per cent between 1990 and 2007. And creating an oil, gas and mining-based economy is going to get us there?

Ramping up the massively gaseous oil, gas and mining sector to pay the province's bills while asking whether or not his government should spend more money on bringing the renewable, bioenergy producing forest sector back from the brink of oblivion is asinine.

Where's your credibility Premier Campbell? Where's your courage to use crises in the forest industry and global economy to retool those rural economies to alternative energy, manufacturing, transportation or tourism? They say you tend to emulate those you adore — looks like B.C.'s got nothing but eyes for Alberta.

The inescapable rise of the 'tweenybopper'

David Bell

January is almost over and before we know it this year will be over. Then it'll be 2010 — the end of the double 0's, the decade that wasn't.

OK, maybe that's unfair to say. Anyone with a dollar in the stock market will say this decade has seen plenty of action, and I suppose there was that whole September thing back in 2001. But as far as culture goes, I'd say this decade was seriously lacking.

Culture is marked by the music that represents it. Fashion trends, common ideals and even general attitudes all seem to stem from popular music. At least it used to. The '60s had their love generation defined by the Beatles, just as the '90s had their angst-ridden grunge phase, as sparked by Nirvana.

Even the '80s had a whole mess of culture, if that's what you can call the leg warmers and massive hairdos that New Wave left in its wake.

So where's our culture? Nirvana was the last major breakthrough act, the last band to change popular culture and the last band to change what it meant to Generation Xers. As a member of Generation Y (which is a terrible name, as it just implies we're nothing more than leftovers from the days of X), I have yet to experience any cultural icon to call my own.

There was hope on the music scene, back in 2002. New York had some promising young acts, such as the Strokes, Interpol and the Yeah Yeah Yeahs to name a few. For a while, it seemed we were about to experience a neo-post punk movement and New York was to be our new Seattle.

But then nothing happened.

How is that possible — how could so many aspiring young musicians, who were pumping out good tunes to boot, fade so quickly from the spotlight?

I think we can safely blame the Internet for that one. Never before had a musical movement had to deal with electronic piracy, or fans knowing their albums even before the release date.

Understandably, these bands panicked. Instead of focusing their energy on making epic follow-up albums, they instead wrote a few hit singles and left the rest of the album with filler. Why wouldn't they, when it was just the singles Napster users were after anyway?

Unfortunately for them, it backfired. Fans started to develop a sort of musical A.D.D., always searching for the next big hit instead of giving bands the time and energy they deserved to crank out a good album.

Nobody could have predicted what happened next.

In 2006, the best-selling album of the year was none other than the *High School Musical* soundtrack. Soon, a frenzy erupted, and a new market segment was born: "tween."

MARC JUNKER GRAPHIC

Yes, not quite a child, but not quite a teen, these youngsters became the hippest new thing in the industry.

What conscious parent could avoid buying their screaming 12-year-old the latest Zac Efron movie? Better buy two so she doesn't have to share with her brother.

Soon, more acts emerged from the tween demographic, from Hannah Montana to the Jonas Brothers, each one outselling the last. Three years later, we're still living in a tween's world.

Somehow a whole generation, my generation, was glossed over, and these undeserving tweensters managed to steal our culture out from under us just so a struggling industry could make a buck.

Please 2009, I'm tired of waiting. I can't keep scouring the music scene for any drop of culture for us 20-somethings, I need you to put it forward. I know it's hard, and I know the industry isn't what it used to be, but I think you can do it. There have been some great albums in the past year, and some promising young acts have taken the stage.

> "In 2006, the best selling album of the year was none other than the ***High School Musical*** soundtrack."

And who knows, maybe you're just waiting, trying to catch us off our guard so that when us Ys finally get a sense of culture, it'll be so unexpected and awesome that one day our kids will look back on this year and say, "Wow, 2009 would have been a cool year to live in."

But until then, I'm left waiting.

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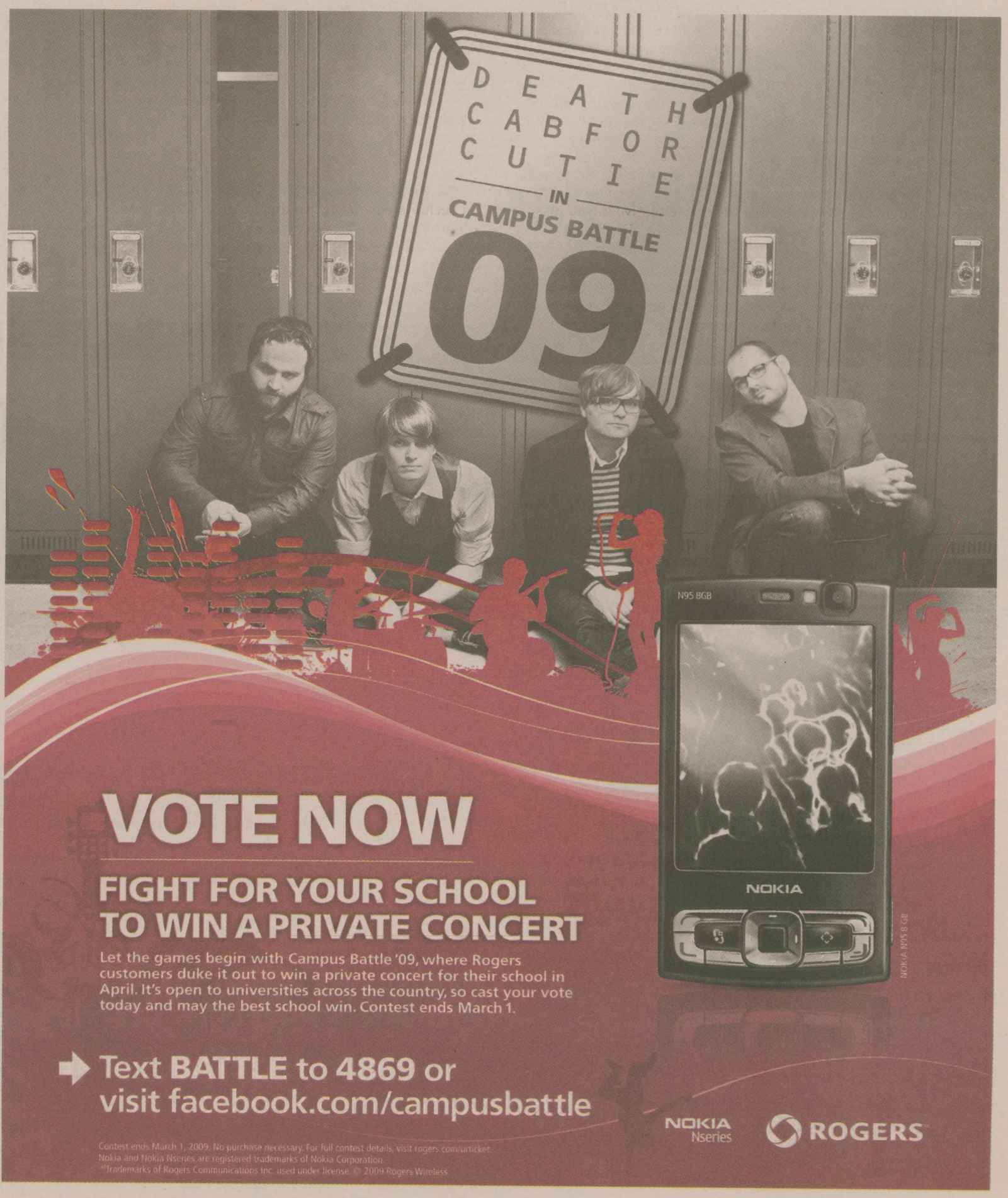
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Queen's wants students to watch their language

Kara Johancsik

Picture this. You're a student at Queen's University chatting with friends in the hall of your dorm after a long day of classes.

"So they're cancelling homecoming next year," one friend says. "Too many rowdy drunks, I guess."

"What?" you say. "That's so gay!"

Shortly after the conversation wraps up and you've returned to your own room, there's a knock at your door. It's one of Queen's new intergroup facilitators, who proceeds to engage you in a detailed discussion of the possible homophobic or offensive implications of the casual comment they overheard in the hallway moments before..

Queen's has recently developed an Intergroup Dialogue Program (IGD), which is designed to create more opportunities for Queen's students to discuss social issues and to promote cross-cultural awareness. Intergroup facilitators (IFs) are resident student staff similar to UVic's community leaders.

But unlike community leaders, IFs are hired specifically to deal with intergroup differences and social identity issues. Supposedly, this involves both planned and spontaneous initiatives to promote cultural sensitivity — a spontaneous initiative presumably being similar to the example above.

Like many liberal-minded university students, I wholeheartedly believe that anyone attempting to actively curb discrimination based on race, gender or sexuality deserves a high-five. But there's something about this that makes me uncomfortable.

My discomfort is arguably the point of the program. If I were approached in my own room to be confronted about the language I had used in a casual conversation, I would certainly hesitate before using it again.

This being said, I would be ranting and raving during my next conversation with friends. Spit would be flying as I wildly gesticulated in an effort to illustrate my displeasure at having my language corrected by a fellow student. What gives them the right? They weren't even part of the conversation! They're the next big brother! The Queen's KGB!

My friends might join in my disdain by mocking the poor facilitator to no end. Why react so strongly? It's simple. University students living in residence typically consider themselves independent and fully responsible for their own actions for the first time in their lives. Having an authority figure correct their use of language seems patronizing and demeaning. Furthermore, many would find it insulting to their intelligence. Students often deal with complex and sensitive issues of race, sexuality and gender on an almost daily basis. Yet even the best of us can resort to less-than-tasteful language when chatting with friends.

As such, I predict two major outcomes for Queen's IGD Program.

The first is that the program will end up offending more people than those regularly offended by political incorrectness in casual language. If we accept my hypothetical reaction as realistic, the facilitator's attempt to discourage my potentially offensive slurs ironically will produce more slurs at the facilitator's own expense.

The second likely result is that facilitators would cease to approach students for fear of losing respect. Although I certainly hope that my red-faced rant would stay within my circle of friends, I'm almost certain that others would not be so considerate.

In short, the idea of using student staff to reduce potentially-offensive language is doomed to failure. It is well-intentioned but tactlessly executed. In theory, it makes sense: the idea of creating tension surrounding racist, homophobic or misogynist language is the only effective way of dissolving discursive discrimination.

However, it's up to the individuals who are personally offended and affected by racist, homophobic or misogynist slurs to create this tension. It's dangerous to rely on any kind of organized authority to determine what is and what is not politically correct. University organizations cannot hope to speak for individuals who have experienced verbal discrimination.

I highly encourage people to speak up whenever the issue arises. Challenge the person who said something that offended you — ask them why they chose that word and explain why you'd rather not hear it. I guarantee that your words will have a far greater impact and will be met with much more respect coming from you than from a member of a group who's been hired to say them.

REQUIRED READING

Tried, tested and truant

Tanysia Komers

JENNIFER ZHOU GRAPHIC

I clearly remember the first time I skipped.

My best friend of the week and I ditched our eighth grade health class to spend the 45 minutes rebelliously hiding out in the girls' bathroom, complaining about our monstrous parents and counting the paper towels stuck to the ceiling.

It was glorious and it was the start of a long love affair with truancy.

At that age, though, just about everything I did was driven by a pubescent desire to stick it to the man. And, man, what was cooler than skipping? I could be both completely unproductive and have the time to be as catty as every 14-year-old girl needs to be.

The basement bathroom became our lair. We would sit there for the entire period, trying to avoid both teachers and leaky toilets while discussing the more important things in life: who had yet to develop a new set of womanly goods, who was slutty enough to French kiss a boy and how grossly inappropriate our gym teacher was.

It wasn't until I left for my exchange year in Switzerland that I discovered how much more of the world was open to me when I wasn't confined to the classroom. I could easily spend my time visiting my friend the town over, going on a shopping spree or, better yet, seeking apples to hollow out for later use.

By the end of the year, I decided to go back to a Français class I had been systematically avoiding, only to have the teacher exclaim that she'd believed I had left the country a couple of months prior. Either way, it wasn't like my time would have been better spent learning literature or chemistry in a language I barely understood.

Of course, I didn't spend any of my time bothering to learn chemistry once I got back to my home soil anyway (after all, it's not like knowing the melting temperature of iron is going to help me on my path to literary infamy), and my teachers quickly made a habit of congratulating me when I made it to class on time, if I managed to get there at all.

My homeroom teacher, however, had the misfortune of being both anally retentive and responsible for my attendance.

My love of truancy can be faulted for several of his panic attacks. At one point, my mother was called in to discuss my perpetual ditching, to which I kindly informed her that if I could maintain the sort of grades that would land me in any university I wanted, my attendance record could go stuff itself.

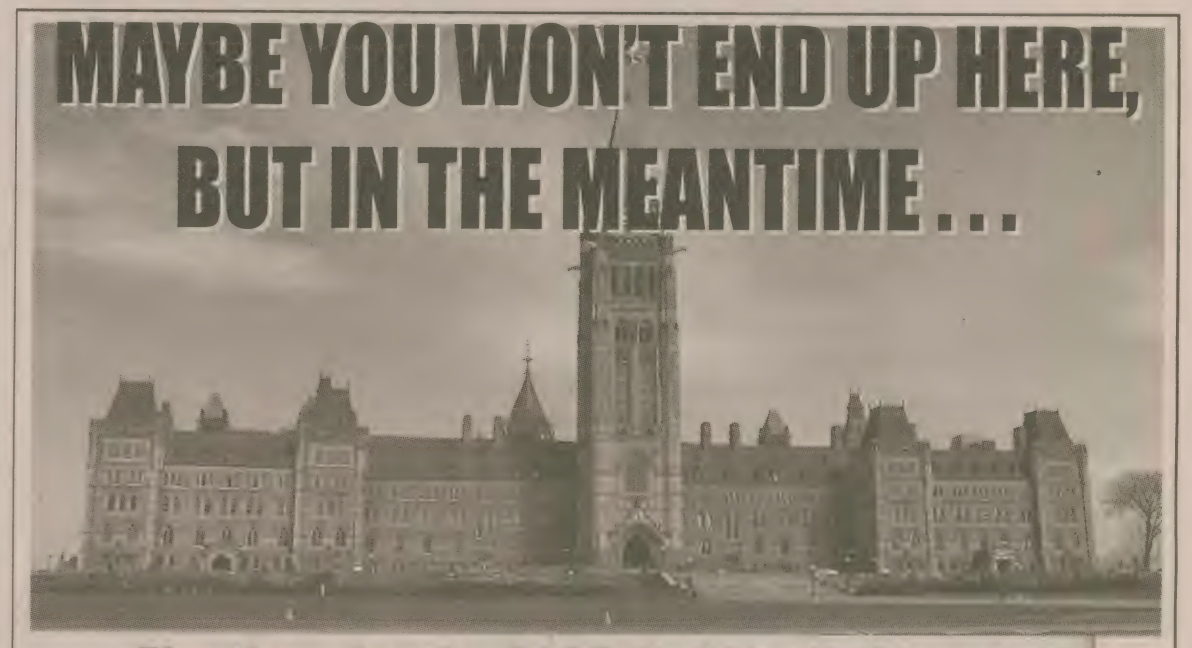
What followed was the greatest maternal reprimand of my life.

"You are an asshole, Tanysia," she told me over dinner that night, "and nobody is going to like you."

She was, of course, referring to the apparent lack of respect my absenteeism shows to both my teachers and classmates, but it was nonetheless one of the best and most inspiring quotes of all time. It was at that moment that I decided to prove my mother wrong. I would continue to spend as little time as possible in my classes, run in (panting) halfway through a lecture, and still somehow manage to have friends.

So far, so good. As a matter of fact, I have yet to be called an asshole by any of my professors, or by any of my friends — other than, perhaps, the time or two that I've directly insulted them (but that's beside the point). The last couple of years at UVic have allowed me to determine I can avoid both class and being called an asshole.

Take that, Mom.



Elections for the 2009-2010 UVSS Board of Directors are coming up and all UVic undergraduate students are eligible to run for a position.

Nominations open on **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd** and close at 4:00pm on **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9th.**

During the above period, nomination forms can be picked up and completed forms can be submitted to the Elections Office in **SUB B106**.

Campaigning begins on **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23th** and goes until the close of polls on **FRIDAY, MARCH 6th.** Polling will take place on **MARCH 4th, 5th, AND 6th.**

For more information go to **www.uvss.uvic.ca.**

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Unveiling the veil

Two women discuss their experiences wearing Islamic head-coverings in Canada

By Suniya Kukaswadia of Ryerson Free Press
Illustrations by Jennifer Zhou

TORONTO (CUP) – Erin Mills Town Centre in Mississauga, Ontario is quiet on a Monday morning. The stores are just opening as the occasional window shopper strolls by. I look up and see a woman walking toward me. She is definitely a head-turner.

"That has got to be her," I think to myself.

It's hard not to stare at a woman who looks like she just walked off the set of Arabian Nights. But it's not her height, her confident stride, or her welcoming aura that attracts so much attention. It's Maryam Rana's glittering eyes – the only part of her face that is visible.

Rana is a niqabi — a Muslim woman who opts to wear a veil over her face. There are various forms of religious dress that Muslim women may wear. The best-known is the hijab, or headscarf, which is usually accompanied by modest attire. Along with the hijab, a woman may chose to wear an abaya, a long, loose coat that comes in different styles and lengths, which is worn over other clothes. Finally, there is the niqab, or face veil.

The niqab arrived in Canada with the new immigrant populations in the 1960s. Many immigrant women decided to take off the face veil when they arrived, as some believed it made it harder for them to assimilate.

The niqab became more familiar to Canadians after 2001, however, as they consumed post-9/11 media coverage that depicted niqabi women under the oppressive Taliban regime. Attention re-appeared during coverage of the Toronto 18 case, when a group of Canadian men and boys were charged with plotting a terrorist attack. Their female family members, who covered their faces, had pictures splashed throughout the media alongside the term "home-grown terrorists."

Post-9/11 Islamophobia has led many Canadians to believe that the niqab is something to be feared. But for the Muslim women who choose to wear it, the niqab is not a symbol of fear; it is a symbol of faith.

Rana grew up in Canada in a devout Muslim family. She started wearing the hijab in grade 3, according to her mother's wishes. But Rana, along with her friends who also wore the hijab, didn't understand its true meaning.

"We didn't wear it properly. We weren't properly covered [clothing-wise], but we would cover our heads," she says.

Rana moved to Pakistan for three years when she was 12. It was there she was introduced to the niqab. Her family lived in a village where her father was an influential figure. Accordingly, Rana was expected to wear the niqab as a means of preserving family pride.

But wearing the niqab made Rana feel hypocritical.

"I had to wear it in the village in front of the poor people, but when I went to the city, I didn't wear it," Rana says. "Everyone was more modern and well-off there, and in order to conform to that, I had to take my niqab off."

When she came back to Canada, Rana decided stop wearing it.

"I wasn't ready. I wasn't at a level of faith to do it, and I didn't even want to be at that level. Also, I was rebelling," she says. "I didn't want to wear it because my mom wanted me to."

Like many Canadian Muslim teens, Rana felt torn between doing what she considered to be Islamically acceptable, and trying to fit in. She felt guilty about hanging out with guys and being too forward with them, but she did it anyway (according to Islam, women and men who aren't blood relatives are to maintain a respectable distance both physically and socially). She felt her faith begin to waver. Yet, all this changed when she began university and decided to explore Islam.

"I wanted to become closer to my deen [faith]. I started doing more research and practicing what I learned," she says.

Soon, Rana found herself contemplating wearing the niqab again.

"I couldn't bring myself to do it because it seemed so hard. People have trouble wearing just the hijab. Imagine covering your face."

Rana also worried about being isolated and finding a job. Her biggest fear was that she would lose her sense of self.

"It's hard not to lose your distinct personality to the personality of a niqabi," she says.

Rana's hesitancy was driven by valid concerns. Veiled women have to deal with racial slurs and social marginalization in many countries, historically including Canada. They also face economic instability, because it can be difficult to get a good job.

One of the biggest questions Rana faced was whether the niqab was Islamically obligatory. Her research revealed conflicting views, both of which seemed valid. Some say the veil is highly recommended, but not obligatory, because it could make the life of the veiled woman difficult — and devotion in Islam is not supposed to be hard. The other side believes that Prophet Mohammed's wives wore it, so therefore all Muslim women must wear it too.

The conflicting messages frustrated Rana, but her epiphany would come during the summer of her second year at university. Rana was always told she was pretty, but she had been whistled at earlier that year at school, which shocked her.

"There is something wrong if I am getting whistled at," Rana says. "I'm not sup-

> "Every time I look in the mirror I think: 'alhumdullilah [praise be to God], God has given me the strength to do this.' When I think about not wearing it, I get scared, because it means I have lost."
>
> - Maryam Rana, Muslim woman

posed to be attracting that kind of attention. I'm not a showpiece, and guys aren't supposed to be looking at me and saying that I'm hot."

That summer, she went back to Pakistan to visit her family. All she could do was think about wearing the niqab. She believed that would signify reaching the highest level of spiritual devotion. She finally made her decision on a two-hour bus ride to the city. She spent the first hour of the trip going over all the pros and cons of wearing the niqab.

"It was all I could think about, and the whole time my cheeks were tingling," Rana says. "I asked my cousin if my cheeks were red, and she said no. The tingling continued, and all of a sudden, I just knew. I took the end of my hijab and covered my face with it. And instantly, I felt at ease."

Rana soon knew she had made the right decision for her. This meant she was improving her faith and herself. The months of back-and-forth, second-guessing, and contemplation had finally come to an end. Rana was happy.

According to Katherine Bullock, a political science professor at the University of Toronto, there is a growing trend of second-generation Muslim women, as well as new converts, adopting the face veil.

"The new generation has been educated here. They know their rights and know they are able to practice their religion. They are also able to better withstand the negative backlash they may face," says Bullock.

This resilience to backlash comes from living in a much more multicultural Canada than their parents did in the 1960s, and also from knowing they don't have to face the same settlement issues their parents did. Rana's mother welcomed the life change with open arms.

"I came home from Pakistan, and my mom had decorated my room and got a cake," Rana says. "She was very happy I made that step."

However, her mom did caution her about what she would have to face.

"I was motivated. I had a reason and . . . I was going to go with it this time. Finally, after all these years, I didn't feel like a hypocrite," she says. "Now I was doing the right thing."

Rana was most worried about the reactions she would get from outsiders. Although she had a few incidents where she was given a mean look or comment, she was mostly left alone. Non-Muslims who were curious about the niqab would ask her about it. At once, she felt more respected than even before she had started wearing the niqab.

Yet, this support wasn't extended from the Muslim community. Aunts and uncles tried to talk Rana out of wearing the niqab, and at dinner parties and gatherings she found people mocking her. She would be called backward, and people assumed she thought she was better than them.

Rana believed this reaction was because they felt ashamed. She says everyone knows they should struggle to reach that level of faith, but feel that they can't. In order to appease their guilty consciences, they try to put others down.

Fatima, Rana's close friend, shared these experiences.

Fatima is a 20-year-old science student in her second year at the University of Toronto. She was raised in Saudi Arabia, an Islamic state governed by one interpretation of Sharia law. And Fatima, like other women in the country, was forced to wear the niqab. It was because of this coercion that she began to hate that aspect of Islam. When Fatima moved to Canada with her family at the age of 12, she felt relief with her new-found freedom.

"I was so happy because I didn't have to wear hijab or niqab, and I could finally wear shorts," she recalls, laughing.

It's hard to imagine Fatima in shorts. She dresses much like Rana, in a black abaya, hijab and niqab. Her two year-old daughter, whom Rana says is a spitting image of Fatima, plays around in a pink and orange pantsuit.

As she grew up, Fatima began to understand the importance of covering herself, and to practice modesty. While the boys at school would verbally harass her, she saw that her hijabi friends didn't get the same treatment.

In grade 11, she started wearing the hijab, and it was during this time that she got closer to Islam. One of her main areas of research was the niqab. Fatima read many articles written by respected religious scholars, and she herself came to believe it was obligatory.

On the first day of Ramadan 2002, the holiest month of the Islamic calendar, Fatima put on her hijab, abaya and, the newest addition to her ensemble, the niqab, and went to school. She was in grade 12 at the time.

When Fatima's mother found out about the niqab, she locked herself in her room and cried for a whole day. Her mother was scared that Fatima would be harmed in the streets or at school, since post-9/11 Islamophobia was at its worst. Fatima's principal, a non-Muslim, had done her own research and tried to convince Fatima that the niqab wasn't obligatory. Muslim teachers in the school got other Muslim girls to try and talk Fatima out of wearing it.

She remembers walking into class and having boys scream hateful things in her face. She had no support from family or old friends, who had stopped associating with her. This reaction does not surprise Bullock.

"The face veil is a visually-shocking way of dressing in a society that's used to baring it all," Bullock says. "And so the opposite, not seeing much at all except the eyes, is a real shock. It takes a lot of commitment on the part of society to get over this shock."

Bullock says our society needs to understand that the women wearing the niqab don't pose a threat to Canadian values. Bullock also feels the media is guilty of perpetuating Islamophobia, which in turn leads to the stigmas attached to the face veil.

John Miller, a professor at Ryerson University's School of Journalism, feels that these stigmas are the result of convenient stereotypes used by the media. He says by refraining from using stereotypes, the media can help change public opinion for the better.

Both Rana and Fatima share concerns about finding jobs. Fatima is scared to try to get a job outside the Muslim community for fear of rejection. But according to Alfonisa Chang, a human resources instructor at Seneca College in Toronto, it would be illegal to discriminate against a woman based on her religious attire, unless the job has a bona-fide occupational requirement.

For example, pilots need to have a certain level of vision in order to do their jobs safely. Likewise, a veiled woman could be turned down from a job that requires her to show her face, such as modeling. Rana and Fatima say they have contemplated taking off the veil if negative repercussions become unbearable.

"Everything comes with a sacrifice," says Rana. "If I didn't continue, I don't believe Allah would have blessed me with the things that he has. Things in life are going to get hard. This is who I am. Every time I look in the mirror I think: 'alhumdullilah [praise be to God], God has given me the strength to do this.' When I think about not wearing it, I get scared, because it means I have lost."

Rana says she would consider taking off the niqab if it was banned in Canada, or if her husband asked her to take it off. Fatima's husband finds it hard to sit back and watch as people harass his wife. He hates that she has to endure the negative attention, but provides her with unconditional support. Although he has broached the idea of asking her to take her niqab off, he would never explicitly force her to do so.

For Fatima, the niqab symbolizes modesty — and a large part of Islam is modesty. It's also a way for her to set her personal bar higher, according to her faith.

"I was always struggling to get better, but nothing was pulling me higher," says Fatima. "The niqab ensures that I better myself in terms of my deen."

Bullock says the niqab can be integrated into Canadian society. She feels that Canadians are committed to freedom of religion, identity and integration. In theory, an individual should be able to accept that some women choose to cover their faces, whereas others do not.

"Education is key in combating growing anti-Islamic sentiments," says Bullock. "A good place to start is with the media, which should be executing more restraint in portraying negative images of women in the niqab."

Bullock also thinks that there needs to be person-to-person interaction between Muslims and non-Muslims through things like conferences and seminars, so as to allow these women to be appreciated as human beings. Bullock says this would allow people to socialize one-on-one with niqabis in an open-minded forum — an opportunity that may not arise on the street. Rana and Fatima maintain high hopes for the future.

"Niqabi women need to be out there," said Rana. "They can't be labeled weak and stay-at-home; it's detrimental."

Fatima believes in being an active member of society, and says she does her part by getting an education and participating in extracurricular clubs on campus, such as the Muslim Students' Association at the U of T.

Rana looks at her watch and is startled to see that we've been talking for almost three hours. She's going to be late for class. We gather up our things to leave. A group of teens pass by us, glance at Rana and Fatima, and snicker amongst themselves. Rana sees them and her eyes light up.

"You know what the best part of wearing a niqab is?" she says. "I can make a face at people and they will never know."

Victoria's poets slam into action

Victoria's "poetry olympics" offers its own Island angle to a long-time Vancouver tradition

What: Victoria Slam
Where: Solstice Café 529 Pandora
When: every third Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m.
How much: $5 by donation

Danielle Pope

Imagine a place where hoardes of people pack into chairs and squeeze together against hallways and walls just to watch you beat out your thoughts on toilet paper, milk, existentialism, love and masturbation.

Soft lights glitter over sweaty skin. The air is rich with the smells of old wooden floorboards, inked body odor, anticipation and herbal tea. A constant buzz of excitement murmurs through the room. Open mic'ers step onto the stage warming the crowd. Clapping and whistles hail from every angle of the small coffee house. It's time.

It's the kick-off of the annual Victoria Slam poetry sessions, hosted by Tongues of Fire, and it's ready to smash viewers' preconceptions about what poetry can be.

"Slam is the Olympics of poetry," Slammaster Kristy Westendorp called out to the crowd on Jan. 15, as the cheering erupted. "Audience, your job is to sway the judges. Judges, your job is to completely ignore the audience."

A slam is a poetic competition where performers have three minutes to perform original poetic work without props, costumes or music. Contestants are then judged by the audience and a panel of selected judges.

While the Victoria Slam sessions happen every third Thursday of the month until May (when the official Slam Team is assembled for national competition), Solstice Café also hosts Tongues of Fire Open Mic nights every second and fourth Thursday as well — a good place to practice for those slammers hoping to make it to nationals.

"It is a very interactive and exhilarating event," said Missie Peters, one of this year's slam organizers and the 2008 Victoria Slam Champion. "When we have a competition, people really bring it."

Despite the loose and casual nature of the slam, points are taken seriously. Just to be certain the numbers are fair (or that "nice people and assholes" are ignored), the judges who award the highest and lowest scores are disregarded — only the middle scores count.

The Slammaster, Westendorp, is also meant to stay unbiased in her dealings with the contestants. This makes for awkward post-poet commentary, as she's prohibited from even saying "good job" to the performers. The audience fell into laughter as Westendorp droned on about her dog's dreams while waiting for the judges to tally their scores.

That said, the operation largely goes off without a hitch.

"The calibre of poetry we get at a slam is phenomenal," said Westendorp, who doubles as one of the slam organizers. "The point system forces people to step it up ... it forces people to keep their poetry relevant. It's meant to be accessible."

Dave Morris was the big winner of the night on Jan. 15, reeling in near-perfect scores from both the audience and the judges on his brash love poems. Morris now qualifies for one of the four Slam Team spots, but he'll have to keep slamming to secure his reign — the overall points aren't tallied until May.

Morris attributes his girlfriend, Peters, as the main reason he got into slams, and why he's performing in the competition. And while Morris said he has participated in and taught improv acting for almost 10 years, he's only been performing poetry for two. But experience took a back seat to entertainment on Thursday.

MARK WORTHINGTON PHOTO

Second-place winner Missie Peters slammed her poem at Solstice Café on Jan. 15. The slam takes place every third Thursday of the month.

"I was really pleased to see the turnout," said Peters, who came in second out of the 12 contestants. "It's really exciting to see people this excited about poetry — and at a level where they're really engaging with the [performances]."

Morris' love-centric poems (one of which accused one-and-a-half inches of space being too far away from a lover's face, even if it made that person look like a Cyclops) took on poignant angles for the crowd — a key that played a part in winning him the top slot for the night. Yet, Morris reiterates the slogan heard multiple times throughout the slam: the point's not the point; the point's the poetry.

"In order to compete on a slam team you need to be comfortable with your words," Morris said. "Reacting to how the audience is perceiving you and seeing how the words affect them — that's the most beautiful thing."

SUB party is back on campus and under control

What: SUBurban
When: Jan. 24
Where: Felicita's and Vertigo
How much: $25

Emily Agopsowicz

We have it under control. That's the message that organizers of the highly-anticipated SUBurban party are sending to the community.

The event will be the first Student Union Building party since the Sept. 2006 party, which saw the UVic Student Society slapped with a $10,000 fine and a 10-day liquor license suspension for a variety of liquor law infractions.

This year's SUBurban party, with a capacity of 750, will be smaller than previous SUB parties and will have significantly more security present. According to Christine Comrie, UVSS Director of Services and Chairperson of the Special Events, there will be at least six police officers present, as well as privately-hired security and union members of UVSS staff to make sure things go smoothly.

Dubbed a "mini" SUB party, the area will include Felicita's, Vertigo and the main hallway in front of the food outlets. The Michelle Pujol room will not be included. There will also be a fenced area outside Felicita's, where security will check bags and IDs. Comrie said that this year's party will be focused on creating a community on campus and supporting local bands.

"We want this party to be about going out with your friends and fellow students, and seeing live music — not necessarily getting drunk," she said.

The Anti-Violence Project will have a table set up so that people will have a safe place to put their drinks when they go outside or to the washroom.

The biggest obstacle in planning the event was obtaining a liquor license.

"We had liquor licenses for both Vertigo and Felicitas — which meant that people wouldn't be able to carry their drinks between the two. This creates a problem because people start chugging their drinks, and there are security issues," said Comrie.

Instead, the UVSS dropped the liquor license for Vertigo, which they worked for two years to obtain, and extended the liquor license for Felicita's to include the entire event area. The evening's entertainment will be provided by Jon and Roy and Acres of Lions in Vertigo. DJ Caskethands and DJ Trek will be playing in Felicita's. By bringing in musical talent from a variety of genres, organizers hope to reflect the diverse tastes of UVic students.

"We're not trying to pinpoint one type of partier. We want to make it inclusive and diverse," said Comrie.

Jon Middleton from Jon and Roy said he is "stoked" to be playing.

"We're hoping there will be people who don't know us that will be hearing us for the first time," he said.

Middleton describes his music as a blend of "folk, reggae and hip hop." The SUBurban party will kick off a cross-Canada tour for Jon and Roy, which is made up of Middleton, percussionist/drummer Roy Vizer and new bassist Ryan Tonelli. Middleton and Vizer are both former UVic students who started playing together while attending UVic.

Acres of Lions frontman Tyson Yerex (also a former UVic student) describes his band's sound as "pop, punk, rock — emo." Yerex is also preparing for a cross-Canada tour, as well as a CD launch in February.

"We're looking forward to playing the SUB party and making friends with students," said Yerex. Acres of Lions encourages audiences to get involved in their music by jumping right on stage.

"We want this to be something to be excited about and proud of — the line-up and attitude is about bringing different faucets together, and building a community at UVic," said Comrie.

Tickets for SUBurban are available at the SUB info booth with a valid student cards presented.

TOP TEN
FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 20, 2009

1. MEATDRAW †
   Fin du Monophone (Self-Released)
2. BLACKOUT BEACH †
   Skin of Evil (Soft Abuse)
3. THE BICYCLES *
   Oh No, It's Love (Fuzzy Logic)
4. Q-TIP
   The Renaissance (Universal Motown)
5. BALACADE †
   Sundown Morning (Old Life)
6. NEIL YOUNG *
   Sugar Mountain: Live From Canterbury House, 1968 (Reprise)
7. AMADOU & MARIAM
   Welcome To Mali (Because/Warner)
8. NAIL SALON †
   Rad City [7-Eleven] (Self-Released)
9. FLIPPER
   Sex Bomb Baby! [reissue] (Water)
10. COBRAS COBRAS COBRAS †
    The Royal Paul Beatdown (Old Life)

* Canadian artist † local artist

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THE MARTLET

GOT RADIO?
Don't worry – If you didn't catch our last program live, you still can stream it for free online: www.martlet.ca/radio

This week our team gets personal with religion and religious tolerance. Next show is 10am Wednesday, January 28th and every second Wednesday thereafter.

GOT AMBITION?
Is your inner radio journalist itching to get involved? For volunteer opportunities e-mail radio@martlet.ca Just as you are, no experience necessary!

GOT THEME MUSIC?
We are now accepting submissions for our theme song contest. Bring a CD with original music by you or your band to the Martlet office by January 31st. The winning entry will be catchy, exciting, about one minute long, and played at the beginning and end of every show.

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Get more out of frozen food

Gemma Karstens-Smith

Eating healthy food can be difficult for a busy student. Who has time to cook after hours of class, hours of studying or hours at a part-time job? Kraft Dinner is easy and cheap. Pizza pops are quick and tasty. And cereal — well, with cereal you can never go wrong.

But leading a hectic life doesn't have to be synonymous with the empty calories you find at the bottom of a pizza box and a diet full of food additives. Eating home-cooked meals isn't difficult, as long as you do a little planning.

JANELYN DE BOER PHOTO

Vegetarian chili is a great way to get your veggies and save time.

First, invest in a good cookbook that fits your tastes and level of cooking expertise (*Starting Out: The Essential Guide to Cooking on Your Own,* by Julie Van Rosendaal is a good choice). Then plan a couple of days during the week when you'll take an hour or so out of your busy schedule and cook a massive helping of something that you can freeze in smaller portions (pasta sauce, soup and lasagna work well). When you come home exhausted, reach for the food you froze a few nights before instead of pouring your third bowl of cereal of the day. By eating food you cook, you control the ingredients, ensuring that it's not only better for your body, but customized to your taste buds as well.

Here's a recipe to get you started for vegetarian chili that not only freezes well, but also tastes great.

VEGETARIAN CHILI

30 ml (2 tbsp) canola or olive oil
1 onion, peeled and chopped
1 red bell pepper, seeded and chopped
3 cloves garlic, crushed
1 pkg veggie ground round
30 ml (2 tbsp) chili powder
5 ml (1 tsp) red pepper flakes
1 540 ml (19 oz) can of diced tomatoes, undrained
1 398 ml (14 oz) can of chickpeas (garbanzo beans)
1 540 ml (19 oz) can kidney beans, drained
250 ml (1 cup) vegetable broth
125 ml (1/2 cup) salsa

Heat the oil in a large pot over medium heat. Sauté the onions, until softened. Add the red pepper and garlic, cooking for another minute. Add the ground round, making sure to break up any chunks.

Add the chili powder and red pepper flakes, cooking for another few minutes. Then add the tomatoes, beans, broth and salsa. Turn the heat down to low and let the mixture simmer for about an hour before serving, stirring periodically. Add chili powder and or red pepper flakes to taste. For an added twist, serve the chili topped with sour cream, grated cheese or both.

NOTE: This recipe can be made in a crock pot instead of in a pot on top of the stove. To do so, turn the crock pot on medium, put in all of the above ingredients and cover. Leave the mixture for at least four hours, stirring periodically and adding chili powder or red pepper flakes to taste. You'll know the chili is ready when the onions and red peppers are soft, but not mushy.

Makes 6 to 8 servings.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LIGHTCRAFTERS PHOTOGRAPHY

Mat Murray won last year's UVic Idol with a Tracy Chapman cover.

UVic contest offers talent to idolize

What: UVic Idol
Where: Felicita's
When: every Thursday, starting Jan. 22
How much: $2

Danielle Pope

Those looking for someone to idolize will only have to go as far as Felicita's to see throngs of students singing their hearts out in the coming weeks.

The first round of the fifth annual UVic Idol competition launches on Jan. 22, and promises to be one of the most rewarding Idols yet.

"We expect this Idol will be just as popular as usual," said UVSS Director-at-Large Veronica Harrison, one of the organizers of this year's event. "So many people want to [participate]."

Although the Student Union Building strike in September prevented Idol from launching during the usual first term, Harrison said student requests brought prospects of the competition back for the spring term. And now the prizes are bigger than ever — this year's winner will receive $1,000 cash, while the runner up will receive a EuroRail pass and third place will walk away with a Big East or Big West Moose travel package and $250 for lodging.

Third-year English major Blaire Sigson will be one Idol contestant this year.

"I've always really wanted to get out there more with singing, and my family and friends kept saying this would be a great way to do it, so I signed up. I'm so excited," Sigson said.

Though this will be Sigson's first time performing in the UVic competition, she hopes her experience singing in high school concerts and in the shower will see her through. But while Sigson says she's eager for Idol, she admits she's anxious about the outcome.

"The most exciting thing will probably be standing up in front of the audience and really getting into the song. It just makes me nervous when I'm in front of people," Sigson said. "I'm sure there are a lot of really talented people waiting to get on stage and do their stuff."

Speaking of talent, be prepared to see a few familiar faces, like Ryan Levis, whose past Idol attempts left him dressing in a fairy costume at the finale last year to counsel "sore losers."

But for those who come to idolize the judges (and their ever-abrupt hilarity) don't expect to see Jonny Morris, UVic's gentler equivalent to Simon Cowell. In fact, be prepared for surprise judges the whole way through. Harrison said they intend to rotate the roster, with a selection of judges from Vancouver Island Brewery and the UVSS board.

Lisa Shaw, a UVic chamber singer and past Idol contestant will also play a judging role.

When it comes to being judged, Sigson said she isn't sure what she'll be singing yet, but sees Idol's delayed start as a benefit to figuring that out.

"I think a January Idol gives people more time to get comfortable with being at school, and a chance [to decide] if this is something they want to do," she said. "It's also something to look forward to all Christmas break."

Harrison believes that, especially in January, Idol to be a great release for students suffering through the winter season, and a cheap treat for those watching their funds.

"It's fun event to bring your friends, listen to good singers and hang out with the winter blues," Harrison said. "And it's only two bucks."

Bizarre exhibit deals with gender, sexuality and life

Artist's films thought to defy definition

What: In Search of Desire: Dead Meat and the Ratspectacla by Clark Ferguson
Where: Open Space
When: now, until Jan. 31

Alison Wagner

It's bizarre. It's crazy. It'll make your brain twitch. In the search for desire, Clark Ferguson stands out. The artist's exhibit, on display at Open Space, brings a surreal touch to the questions of gender, sexuality and existentialism.

Hailing from Saskatoon, Ferguson has a deep interest in "the spectacle, humour and issues of gender and sexuality." He sets self-imposed limitations to his films to mimic the limitations we put on ourselves as individuals and as a society. According to his website, he intends these impositions to "mirror the conceptual interests that he is exploring. This process not only affects the final product, but becomes part of the research and is, in effect, a performative aspect of the work."

Ferguson's exhibit consists of two recent films. The first, *The Ratspectacla*, is an ingenious mixture of live action and illusion. "Dougy", played by the artist himself, is chased through a series of sets by a monstrous, man-eating rat. The horror genre plays upon our apprehensions in a way that is somehow both serious and ridiculous.

Ferguson's second film, *Dead Meat*, sets a live actor against puppets in the search for the meaning of life. The first thing you think as the credits roll is likely to be "what the hell," but the messages stick like glue nonetheless.

You'll find yourself sorting through the scenes like puzzle pieces, trying to put it all together. Ferguson's subtle wit and brilliant camerawork carries the whole thing — only one scene contains any dialogue. Keep your eyes open; the miniature sets used in this film are on display as well.

A word to the wise: try the video player on the back wall. It contains an extra short film that will both shatter your expectations, and explain a lot of Ferguson's tricks.

The films defy definition. In terms of art, they leave convention in the dust. Ferguson twists our perceptions and forces us to see what he wants us to see.

The characters manipulate our emotions even as they reveal themselves for what they are. In Ferguson's world, a rat is a human-sized monster, an owl teaches life lessons and a suede coat is roadkill.

It doesn't get much stranger than that.

DARSHAN STEVENS PHOTO

Catch it while it lasts — Ferguson's exhibit runs until Jan. 31

Islam awareness week on at UVic

MSA educates students about Islam

Melissa Hiebert

In a post-9/11 world characterized by racial and religious profiling, where words like "Islamicist" (a hybrid between "Islam" and "terrorist") are used often by Western media, many people are grossly misinformed about exactly what Islam is and what it stands for. UVic's Islam Awareness Week hopes to address some of the misconceptions about Islam and help to promote tolerance and understanding amongst all students.

Islam Awareness Week (IAW), running from Jan. 26 to 28 in the Michele Pujol Room in the Student Union Building, is put on by the UVic chapter of the Muslim Student Association (MSA), and is part of a national event run by MSAs all across North America.

In addition to providing services and support for the Muslim community, one of the MSA's main goals is to promote understanding of Islam to the wider student population.

"The objective of [IAW] is to present the theological, social and political beliefs and practices of Islam vis-a-vis those of the west," said Sadaf Ahmed, the women's co-ordinator for UVic's awareness week. "We plan to address some often misunderstood topics such as the role of women, and perhaps areas that the mainstream public may be uninformed about, such as Islam's relationship to science and Jesus."

Events during IAW include a series of talks on a number of different subjects, with a question and answer period, as well as time for general discussion amongst the audience and the speakers.

Some talks will be related directly to Islam and its practices. There will also be a historical lecture on Western imperialism in the Islamic world — a pertinent topic not only to those interested in Islam, but for politics and the dynamics of the modern world in general.

"We hope to accomplish the goal of greater understanding about Islam as it is self-understood, to provoke thought, and initiate the momentum for further discussion," said Ahmed.

There will also be information booths set up in the Michele Pujol Room, and documentaries will be continually shown throughout the week.

Students are also welcome to talk to members of the MSA, who will be available to answer questions or engage in further discussions.

"To be sure, we also hope to dispel some misconceptions people may have," added Ahmed.

Whether you're Christian or Muslim, theist or atheist, or anything in between, fostering a culture of tolerance and understanding is important across all communities.

Hopefully students will continue to learn about each other and carry that tolerance with them, on campus as well as off. Insha Allah.

A schedule of events for the IAW can be found at uvicmsa.org.

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Sage's new album a beautiful dream

What: Miranda Sage's Daydream CD release party
Where: Hermann's Jazz Club (753 View St.)
When: Jan. 23 and 24, 8 p.m.
How much: $15, students $12

Mike Edel

There are those who would critique jazz as being irrelevant in today's music world. But when the pre-eminent play, these critics are wrong.

Jazz is still a youngster, evolving with America in the '50s and '60s. As it becomes history, it will gain momentum rather than become a dated genre.

It will only become more significant as our generation progresses, not because of our personalities, or the newest jingle on the iPod commercial, but because of acute foresight and imagination.

Victoria based jazz vocalist Miranda Sage is not only a pre-eminent, she's a powerhouse. On Jan. 23 and 24, she'll be proving cynics wrong, releasing her fourth album, *Daydream*, at Hermann's Jazz Club.

What takes *Daydream* out of the elevator shaft and into reality isn't a fancy trick or a new phenomenon, but a rhythm section that pulls all the right ropes and levers and allows Sage a smooth and comfortable walk to the microphone.

Sage says she "feels spoiled" because performing with her backing band "is absolutely magical, they are incredible musicians that make it easy."

But Sage spoils all the mature kids, visiting every level of her vocal range with refined poise.

Daydream's premier track, "Reaching for the Moon," is haunting. Dan Brubeck on drums (son of Dave Brubeck, of Take Five) and Rick Kilburn on bass invigorate ghostly life into the 5/4 Latin feel, as Sage's vocals burst out of the fog and up into the atmosphere. Brubeck's luring melodic solo leaves just enough room for Phil Dwyer to rip his soul out via tenor sax.

Sage describes this album as being "up-tempo." She says it really gets taken to another level with the band, compared to her previous piano duo album.

There is no doubt Sage has assembled a cast of heavies to stand with her near the top.

Sage and her band continue to keep jazz relevant to the masses (specifically the button-pressing generation) through great musicianship, not great recording techniques, marketing, personality, or the latest trend. It is about expression, and about stretching boundaries.

Those with a trace of soul and the slightest intellect comprehend and decipher what others may consider to be jumbled noise — they understand the rigor of musical motifs and cohesion, a modulating search for ecstasy which all create an inimitable experience.

Backing Sage at the Hermann's CD release shows will be Kilburn, Brubeck, Don Thompson (piano), Roy Styffe (sax) and Hugh Fraser (trombone).

They are an ensemble that will accompany and poignantly deliver *Daydream* in the fashion that will do justice — live.

CASSIDY NUNN PHOTO

Kiki Londo played their first live show in over a year at Hermann's Jazz Club on Jan. 12.

Music means family for jazz trio

Cassidy Nunn and Brianna Sloan

The name Kiki Londo is a bit of a mystery, even to them. But what's really a mystery is where these musicians have been hiding for the past few years. On Monday night, Jan. 12, however, they had Hermann's Jazz Club packed and moving. It was their first public show since Victoria Jazz Fest in 2007, but hopefully not the last.

Hermann's Jazz Club, the most prominent jazz club in Victoria, was a fitting venue for the trio. The music, combined with the low ceiling, dim lighting and long bar, is a throw back to the days when jazz was it. To the three musicians of Kiki Londo, jazz is still where it's at.

The bass, piano and drum trio is made up of father and son duo, Patrick and Gordon Miller, and good friend Robert Fisher. The three have been jamming together in basements for the past five years and have come up with a sound that is both contemporary and innovative — "a high-energy jazz band with strong rock influence," said Fisher. Kiki Londo plays mostly covers of jazz classics, including Chickeria and Duke Ellington among other jazz greats.

Jazz is the common ground on which these three talented but diverse musicians collaborate. Fisher, a local graphic and renovation designer, was originally a rock drummer. He brings a jazz-rock fusion feel to the group and keeps at bay those "ta-ting, ta-ting" drum brushes that many jazz band drummers rely so heavily on. His driving beats break away from the classic piano jazz trio and abandon the cliché lounge jazz.

Gordon Miller's musical background lies in the well-rounded education he says he received in the Canadian Armed Forces School of Music. An accomplished trumpet player, pianist and choir director, Miller's life revolves around music (his day job is managing Tom Lee Music). Miller's love of music has been passed along to his son, Patrick. The 22-year-old gourmet cook grew up with a bass guitar in his hand and his rear end on a piano bench.

"That's just how it works in our house," said Miller, who has called playing with his son "incredible."

Kiki Londo's stage presence reflects their music: high energy, fluid and captivating. Patrick is a show of his own, dancing with bass in hand, fingers flying. Miller plays with animated movements and quick-fingered melodies that don't overshadow, but rather lead the band. Fisher — who has an uncanny resemblance to Miller, giving the impression that the band is all one family (trés Von Trapp) — keeps it all together with his toe-tapping rhythms and energized percussion.

Although they all lead busy lives, Kiki Londo manages to rehearse a minimum of twice a week, which is something they attribute to the support they receive from their families — who understand that playing music together is pursuing their passion.

Kiki Londo will be putting on future shows around Victoria and hope to one day tour the Jazz Festival circuit in B.C. To find out more, or book the band for any gigs, check out their revamped website: members.shaw.ca/gordonmiller.

GENERAL MEETING

DATE: Friday, January 23

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: SUB B011

Proposed Agenda:

1) Call to order
2) Election of new members to the board of directors
3) Adjourn

That's right, it's time for the Martlet's General Meeting. We'll be having a fun time electing a new Board of Directors.

If your name is in the staff box, your presence is requested. If you're not staff but want to get involved, please attend!

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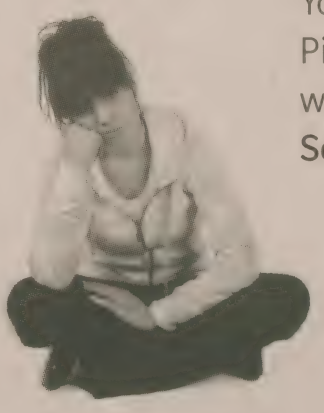

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SALMON KINGS SURVEILLANCE

SANDRA MINARIK PHOTO

Wes Goldie has netted 11 goals and 15 points in his last 10 games.

Aces halt Salmon Kings' historic win streak

Philippe Granger

After extending a winning streak to a remarkable 15 games on home ice, the Victoria Salmon Kings headed up to Anchorage to take on the Alaska Aces.

The Aces played their cards right last Friday and caused the first game of three to become tied at two goals apiece before heading to a shootout where they managed to better the Salmon Kings by a score of 3-2. The Salmon Kings relinquished their winning streak but were now on an unbeaten streak of 16 games.

During the second game of the three-game Alaskan series, Dan Gendur sniped one from the slot after receiving a nice feed from Olivier Filion midway through the first period. This gave Victoria a 1-0 lead early in the game. Unfortunately for Victoria, the Aces solved the Salmon Kings' winning chemistry in the second period to take the game 5-3 and bring all streaks to an end.

During the third and final meeting of the two powerhouses, it turned out to be a battle of the goaltenders. Salmon Kings' Todd Ford started the game in net while the Aces countered with Jean-Phillipe Lamoureaux. Both stood tall throughout the game, while players crashed and banged each other hard around the rink. It was nothing less than a full physical final effort between both teams.

The Alaska Aces swept the visitors and allowed only one Victoria power-play goal on 18 attempts during the three-game stint.

Captain Wes Goldie has been recently named CCM TACKS ECHL Player of the Month for December. This is the first time the 29-year-old has received the award, and the nomination also marks the first time a Salmon Kings player has been the recipient.

Goldie has also been named as a starter for the ECHL All-Star Game, due to his recent scoring rampage during the Salmon Kings' 15-game win streak as well as his remarkable play so far this season.

He is currently leading the league in goals with 33, and will surely continue to throughout the season.

Goldie has scored 11 goals and 15 points in his last 10 games but on the Alaskan road trip he registered just one goal on 13 shots, one assist and had a minus-two rating.

The 17th-annual All-Star Game is set to happen in Reading, Pa. at the Sovereign Center, on Jan. 21, which is home to the Reading Royals.

Victoria's Dylan Yeo has also been named a starter for the all-star game, and Gendur has been named to the National Conference roster.

Salmon Kings coach Mark Morrison has been named as co-coach of the National Conference for the all-star Game.

The Salmon Kings return home from their current road trip to welcome the Stockton Thunder to the Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre Jan. 27.

The gloves are off, but for how long?

Steve Lancashire

JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

Fighting has always been a part of hockey culture, and won't likely be going away any time soon.

In the wake of a young hockey player's death, the debate on fighting's place in the game has reached a critical juncture.

Don Sanderson, a 21-year-old hockey player for the Whitby Dunlops of the Ontario Senior AAA league, succumbed Jan. 2 to head injuries suffered during an on-ice altercation. He had been in a coma since Dec. 14, 2008.

The injury occurred late in the third period of a game against the Brantford Blast. Toward the end of the game, Sanderson engaged Brantford's Corey Fulton in a fight in which Sanderson's helmet slipped off as his head smashed into the ice. Sanderson was knocked unconscious for 30 seconds before regaining consciousness, then ultimately fell into a coma and required life support until his death.

This preventable tragedy has spurred many to voice their opinion on the future of fighting in hockey, and some leagues have already establish new rulings to protect their players.

On Jan. 14, David Branch, commissioner of the Ontario Hockey League, passed a ruling stating, "Any player losing their helmet during an altercation will receive a two-minute minor penalty, an automatic game misconduct and a one-game suspension." The new rule includes every type of scenario in which a player's helmet could be lost in order to promote on-ice safety.

The bottom line: you fight, and you're gone.

Some advocates of old-time hockey would potentially see this move as reactionary, as Branch has a history of instituting new rules after serious accidents have occurred.

Last year, when Richard Zednik of the Florida Panthers was inadvertently cut across his neck by a skate, Branch quickly instituted a mandatory neck-guard ruling to protect his players.

While both the Sanderson and Zednik incidents are freak occurrences, they will never happen again in the Ontario Hockey League under the guidance of Branch. Perhaps the Ontario Hockey League is on to something revolutionary: by essentially omitting real fighting, the potential for serious injury could be reduced dramatically.

Thus far, the new rule is proving to be a smart move. In a recent tilt between Phoenix Coyotes forward Daniel Carcillo and a Vancouver Canucks defenceman, Carcillo's head was inadvertently driven into the ice, not unlike Sanderson's fight. Luckily, Carcillo's granite skull prevented any serious injuries.

Despite all of these changes, the chances of eliminating fighting from hockey are severely low.

The rules on fighting vary throughout every professional and junior hockey league. Despite all the different regulations, fighting in hockey will always be a part of the game. It is more than a matter of two enforcers displaying their frustrations for the pure entertainment of rabid fans; Fighting serves a greater psychological purpose for teams who require a boost of energy at pivotal points in a game — watching your teammate put his body and health on the line to give his team a boost of adrenaline or defend star players is one of the most common occurrences in the NHL.

Every team employs a fourth-line "plug" to patrol the ice in case anyone decides to take liberties, and therein lies the problem.

Well-known CBC commentator Don Cherry is perhaps the most vocal advocate of fighting in hockey, having coached during the '70s — arguably the toughest era in hockey history. While he defends players fighting and demonstrating team toughness, he is adamantly against players whose only purpose is to seek and destroy.

"I never believed in having a mad dog sit on the bench and have two or three shifts, and go out there and fight," he said. "That's not hockey."

Cherry's comments do contain an element of truth. Watching Calgary's captain Jarome Iginla fight Vancouver Canuck Ryan Kesler would have a far greater impact on their teammates because it is not their primary role to fight. They intentionally take themselves out of the game in defence of their team. That's what leadership is all about.

The tragedy of Sanderson will never be forgotten in the hockey community, and will continue to be used by anti-fighting activists to further their cause. Unfortunately for many, fighting will remain a staple in hockey for the foreseeable future.

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Vikes' defensive play clinches Pacific Division playoff spot

David Karp

Heading into last weekend, the UVic women's basketball team had a playoff spot all but guaranteed.

Now, the team can breathe a little easier. Even if the apocalypse comes and they lose all of their remaining seven games (including three against Pacific Division bottom-feeder Thompson Rivers University), the Vikes will still be headed to the playoffs for the seventh straight season.

The team easily dispatched of the Universty of Manitoba Bisons 66-43 on Friday, Jan. 16, followed by a comfortable 69-56 win over the University of Winnipeg Wesmen on Saturday.

When asked if there was a risk of his team easing up with a playoff berth guaranteed, UVic coach Brian Cheng laughed.

"We've got a heck of a lot of room to get better. Our goal is to play 40 minutes well," he said.

With six games remaining and an 11-6 record, UVic will need to stay ahead of Trinity Western (10-7) and UBC (8-9) if they want home-court advantage for the first playoff round, the best-of-three division semi-final.

The Vikes have their defence to thank for their success this season. The team's objective has been to shut down their opponents' top players. And it has worked — the team now boasts the stingiest defensive record in the Canada West conference, allowing an average of just 55.2 points against.

"Our whole focus has been to take away a team's best players. We're not shy on that — that's always been what we've been about," Cheng said.

UVic's defensive strategy was executed well last weekend. The Vikes managed to hold Manitoba's leading scorer, Tessa Klassen, to just five points on Friday, while UVic's Vanessa Forstbauer shut down Winnipeg's top scorer, Amy Ogiden, on Saturday. Ogiden was held off the scoresheet in the first half, and only managed six points all game.

"She's super athletic, and if she gets anywhere close to the basket, she can elevate over anybody," said Forstbauer, who was tasked with marking Ogiden. "[The strategy] was just to keep the ball out of her hands and keep her away from the basket."

Winnipeg must have underestimated the Vikes' defensive abilities heading into the game. While the Vikes were well aware of the danger Winnipeg's top player could inflict, Ogiden didn't know who Forstbauer was when asked about her after the game, even though Forstbauer had been guarding Ogiden all night.

"Who is that?" Ogiden asked. "Oh, number 15? She played fine. She played well. Coming into this, we knew that their strongest player and scorer was [Kayla] Dykstra, so we were focused more on her."

Dykstra, a six-foot-two forward, is the Canada West conference's leading scorer this season, averaging 16.9 points per game. She had double-doubles in both weekend games, scoring 16 points and grabbing 15 rebounds against Winnipeg on Saturday, and 15 points and 12 rebounds against Manitoba on Friday.

Perhaps the happiest Vikes player this weekend was rookie guard Debbie Yeboah, a Winnipeg native who was recruited by the University of Winnipeg but chose UVic instead. Many of the University of Winnipeg players were her teammates on the Manitoba provincial team.

"I won't rub it in too much," Yeboah said, laughing. "They're still my friends."

JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

The Vikes swept both Manitoba and Winnipeg in last weekend's series.

Continued from p. 1

Students step into the ring

For 21-year-old Varga, the ring will serve as his proving ground.

"A shot at the title gives me a chance to prove that I have accomplished something in my kickboxing career," he said. "I can look back at my Canadian title and know that all my hard work went to something."

The main bout in the event will be 23-year-old Gaberial Varga's match with Joseph Concha of Newcastle, Australia for the world super-lightweight (137 pounds) ISKA title.

"We both have undefeated records, so it will be the best challenge on paper so far," he said.

For the five fighters, juggling intense training sessions and school work has called for extreme dedication. On top of studying, the fighters have followed a rigorous diet and have not had the typical university-partying lifestyles.

"You are always on the go and it doesn't leave you much time for anything else," said Brian Chou.

With so much time in the gym and devoted to training, the guys see the sport as an opportunity to "have each others' backs," as Kreisel noted.

With rituals like always using the "lucky" towel and Aaron Varga's blue corner, come Saturday their training will hopefully pay off as they look to emerge less battered and beaten than their opponents.

A $40 admission fee doesn't seem like much for what Gabriel Varga says fans will witness as the "fastest and most explosive fights they have ever seen."

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Vikes sweep Keystones in weekend series

Andrew Smith

Despite a convincing weekend series that shook off the threat of both the Manitoba Bisons and the Winnipeg Wesmen, UVic men's basketball coach Craig Beaucamp says his team has plenty of room for improvement.

The Vikes went into last weekend's series with a 10-5 record that saw them tied in second place with mainland rivals Trinity Western Spartans. With a chance of hosting a playoff game in their sights, UVic should have easily disposed of the Manitoba Bisons, who have just four wins in 14 games this season.

The Bisons near staged an upset however, as Friday night's thriller saw the Vikes come back from a 46-43 halftime deficit to take the game in the final minutes by a score of 84-80.

Beaucamp felt his side should have asserted themselves earlier on in the match.

"Friday night was an example of how, if we don't play well, we can let any team back in it," Beaucamp said. "The longer the other team is in the game, the more they can build their confidence."

Beaucamp's players must have felt the same as they came out storming against the Winnipeg Wesmen on Saturday night. Right from Tyler Hass's opening basket, the Vikes overwhelmed the Wesmen with everything from alley-oops to stellar long-range jump shots.

JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

UVic came back from a 46-43 half time deficit to win 84-80.

The home side was simply unstoppable as they shut out the visitors early, with a 44-20 halftime lead.

By the third quarter, several UVic starters were seated as their substitutes went on to finish the job.

It was an impressive win for the Vikes that sent the Wesmen running back to the prairies after a convincing 75-55 defeat.

UVic's Tyler Hass led all scorers in Saturday's appearance, despite resting on the bench for the entire fourth quarter.

The Vikes are still tied with Trinity Western, however, in second place with a 12-5 record.

The squad will have to maintain their composure and remain consistent when they take on the Thompson Rivers Wolf Pack (2-15) this weekend in Kamloops.

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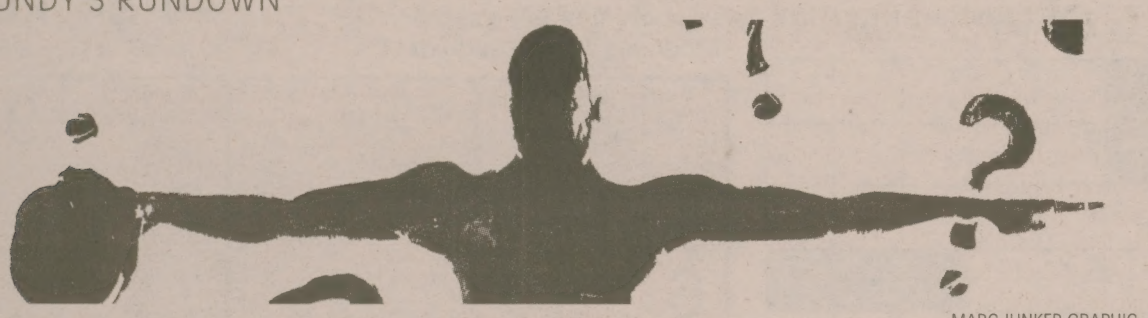


MARC JUNKER GRAPHIC

At mid-season, the race is heating up

Matt Lundy

The NBA regular season has reached the mid-way point, and like last year, has failed to disappoint with its brand of ever-increasing athleticism, influx of talent and fascinating personalities. Here is some of the best and worst from the NBA at mid-season.

Best Team — Los Angeles Lakers

This mid-season award was a toss-up between the Lakers and the Cleveland Cavaliers, easily the NBA's best teams since the Boston Celtics underwent a holiday slump. Yet, the Lakers edge out the Cavs in part due to greater balance on their roster, a deeper bench and better competition in the Western Conference.

The Lakers pace the league with an impressive 108 points per game, thanks to team leader Kobe Bryant, who averages 27 points per contest. On any given night, the Lakers can receive significant contributions from starting players such as Pau Gasol and Andrew Bynum and bench players like Lamar Odom and Sasha Vujacic. Regardless of the style of play other teams wish to impose on the Lakers, coach Phil Jackson has enough options to both match and exceed opponents. Expect to see Jack Nicholson sporting his sunglasses in a courtside seat come June.

Rookie of the Year — Derrick Rose

Despite some fierce competition from the Memphis Grizzlies' OJ Mayo and the Oklahoma City Thunder's Russell Westbrook, Chicago Bulls' rookie point guard Derrick Rose has defied pre-season predictions in becoming the league's top first-year player. The point guard position is generally seen as one of the most difficult for a rookie player to play at the professional level, yet Rose, at 20 years of age, has adapted well. Through 40 regular-season games, Rose has averaged nearly 17 points per contest and over six assists. His quickness, athleticism and ability to finish at the basket have Chicago fans dreaming big for the first time since the reign of Michael Jordan.

Most Disappointing Player — Tracy McGrady

Finally Tracy McGrady's on-court play matches his sleep-eyed, half-stoned appearance. The Houston Rockets have played solid basketball, yet their top talent has played at a mediocre level and looks prepared for a significant career downfall. Despite being only 29 years of age, McGrady is a 12-year veteran and his body is beat up like a rusty Dodge pick-up. In 28 regular season games, McGrady has averaged under 16 points per game, nearly six below his career average, behind a horrendous 39 per cent field goal percentage.

Most Disappointing Team — Philadelphia 76ers

Last season's Philadelphia squad snuck into the playoffs and put a scare into the veteran Detroit Pistons behind their youth, athleticism and fearless play. When the 76ers signed free agent Elton Brand to an $80 million contract, most basketball writers salivated at their upcoming potential.

Mid-way through the regular season, however, the 76ers sit at a disappointing 19 wins and 20 losses, through Saturday's action. So how has the Brand signing worked out? For the past month he's been injured with a dislocated right shoulder, a span in which his team has an 8-6 record and has played infinitely better.

The Groundhog Day Award — San Antonio Spurs

Much to the chagrin of most NBA fans, perennial contenders the San Antonio Spurs weathered an abominable start and postponed their retirement to the geriatric ward. Early in the season, all-stars Manu Ginobili and Tony Parker rode the bench with injuries, while superstar Tim Duncan held down the fort.

Now that they're playing at full-strength, the Spurs look poised for a deep-season run and yet another post-season with an inordinate number of courtside TV appearances from Eva Longoria, Parker's main squeeze. Credit the Spurs for picking up shooting guard Roger Mason, who leads the league in three-point field goal percentage at 47.5 per cent.

MVP — Lebron James

In perhaps the most obvious mid-season selection, Lebron James has taken his play to yet another level and paced his Cleveland Cavaliers squad to a league-leading record through Saturday's action. His season averages have remained consistent with prior seasons, at a shade under 28 points per game, yet the overall play of his team and a new-found commitment to defence makes James an MVP front-runner.

Part of the reason why James' statistics are modest, by his standards, is that the Cavs have been annihilating the competition by a league-leading 12-point differential and rarely need his services in garbage time. Don't forget that James has been spiking opponents' shots like a Brazilian beach volleyball player, and you've got a pretty convincing argument for his first of many MVP awards.

MARTLET SEMINAR

Investigative journalism techniques with Sean Holman

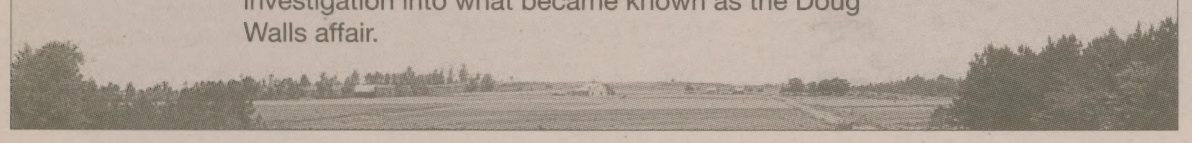
DATE: Monday, January 26

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: SUB B011

Free

Sean Holman is the legislative bureau for 24 hours, British Columbia's third most read newspaper, and the host of Public Eye Radio on CFAX 1070. Holman, who has written for The Globe and Mail, the Times Colonist and The Vancouver Sun, is also the founder of Public Eye Online, a Website that has been described by CanWest News as the "go-to source for B.C. scuttlebutt." In 2004, he won the Jack Webster Award for a five month investigation into what became known as the Doug Walls affair.



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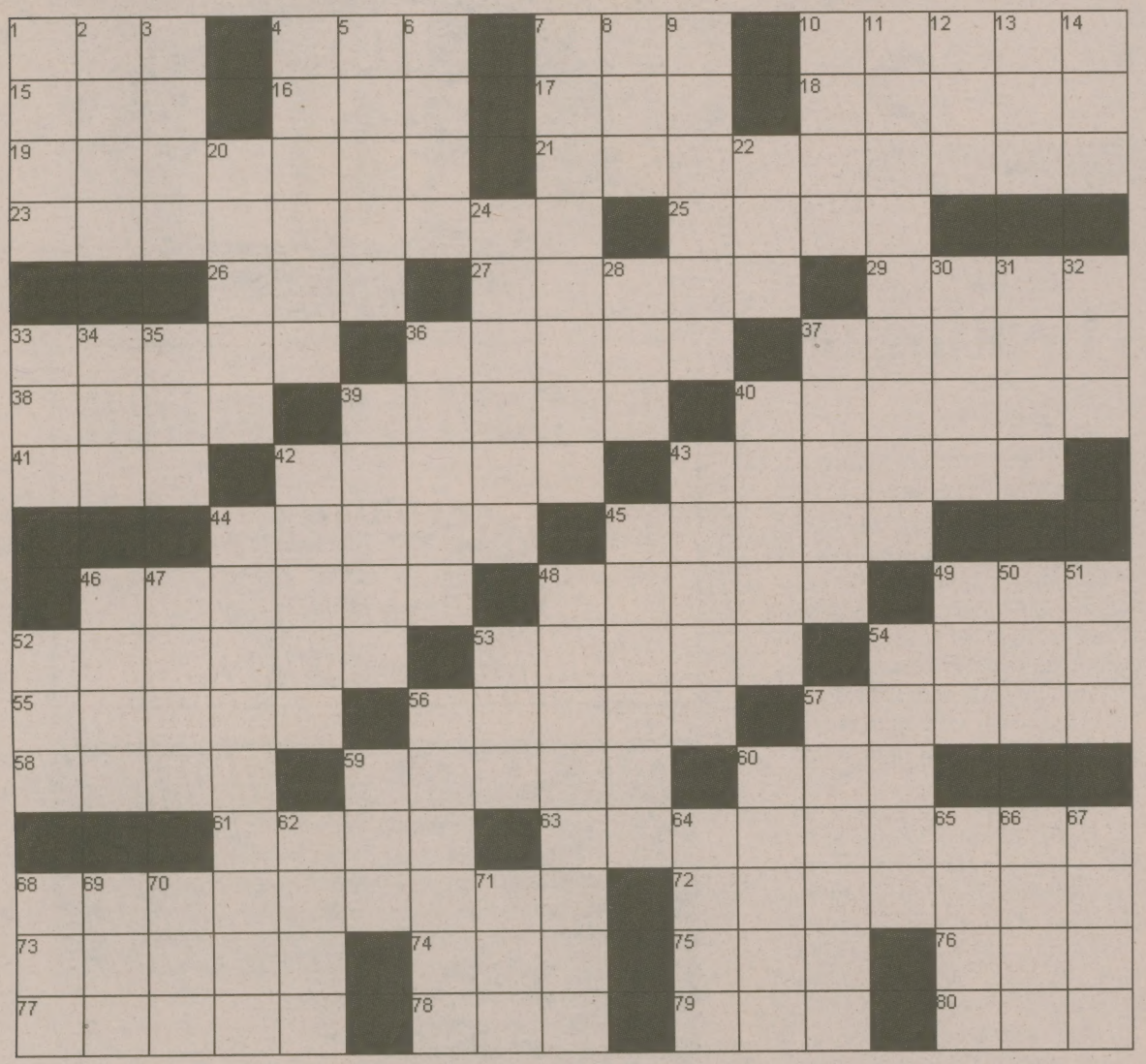
by Krystian Imgrum



Across

1 Singer Tormé
4 Lightening or hot
7 Vain one
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21 I don't want to study yet! (2 wds.)
23 Still procrastinating... (2 wds.)
25 Attractive, to Ludacris
26 Cheer, in Valencia
27 Ivy leaguer
29 Court order
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36 Aluminium producer
37 Race judge, sometimes
38 Eye part
39 Casted
40 Appeared
41 God of the woods
42 Cake portion
43 Send forth
44 & 45 Still procrastinating (2 wds.)
46 Scrape
48 Dog's threat
49 Racer's wheels
52 Ruminates
53 Pomme de ___
54 Hay unit
55 Let
56 City of ill repute
57 Computer part
58 Makes doilies
59 Demon
60 School subj.
61 Scottish hillside
63 Still procrastinating... (2 wds.)
68 Still procrastinating... (2 wds.)
72 Religious war
73 Verdi compositions
74 Sailor
75 Ardent
76 Tailor's concern
77 Overflows
78 ___ Girl Friday
79 Snake eyes number
80 Match (in cards)

Down

1 Church session
2 Bad orchard location?
3 Casa ___
4 Aggravate
5 Speak flatulently
6 Kosher eatery
7 Teenager's plight (2 wds.)
8 Gold, to Pedro
9 Coastal bird
10 Play first
11 Act without restraint
12 Holiday decoration
13 Outback animal
14 Stimpy's companion
20 Desktop features
22 Cry of disgust
24 Just ___ (2 wds.)
28 Straggle
30 Actress Downey Jr.
31 List constituent
32 Wool weight
33 Swiss peak
34 Meadow
35 Hostel
36 Linda Lavin sitcom
37 Jeopardy
39 Runner crafts
40 Lock eyes
42 Oak product
43 Insincere flattery
44 Construction plank
45 Join the army
46 Euclidean measure
47 Bluenose, for ex.
48 Some Casanovas
49 Satiric magazine
50 Pub's fare
51 Geologic treasure
52 Order at 6 down
53 Moreover
54 Philistines
56 Sword's cover
57 Insignificant
59 Prank
60 Noble title
62 A Supreme
64 Canyon sound
65 Louts
66 Comic pooch
67 Apportion
68 Tank
69 Fury
70 Live and let ___
71 French month

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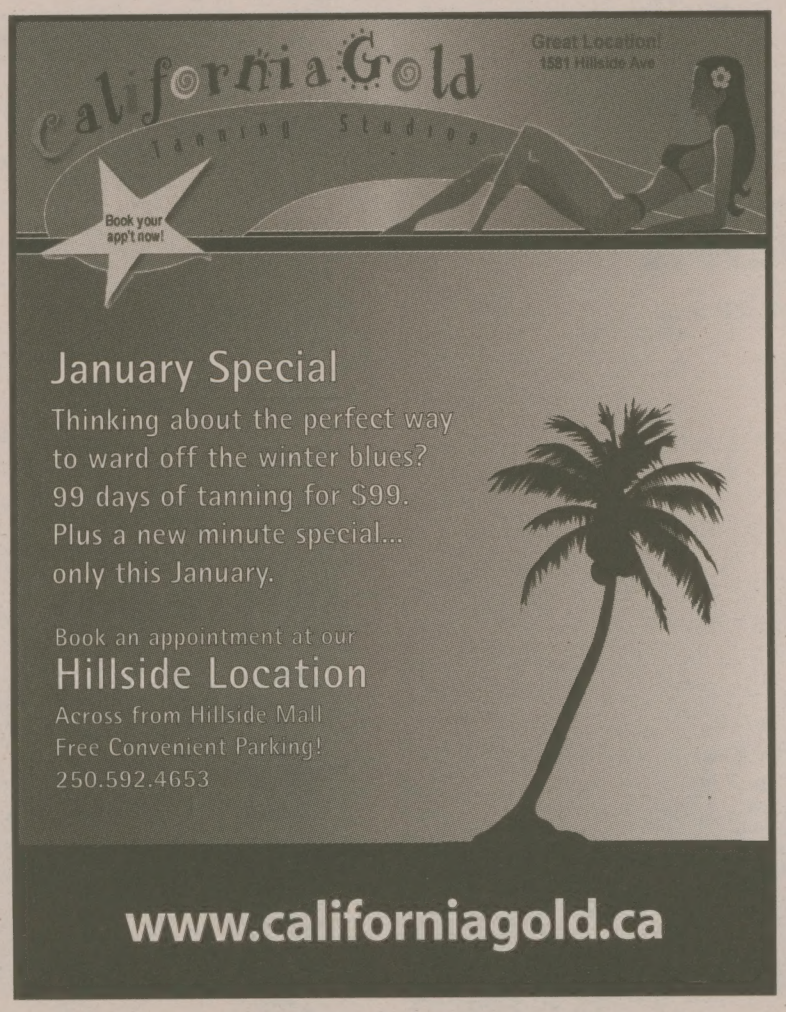

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THURSDAY, JAN. 22

29th Annual Art Education Faculty Exhibition
All Day
McPherson Library Gallery
As teachers and artists the 19 participants in the exhibition reveal an intimate and wide range of creative ideas and talents that deal with social, environmental and technological issues. Exhibit runs until Feb. 22, 2009.
Fee: Free
Info: maltpub@finearts.uvic.ca

President's Distinguished Lecture: What Is America?
8 - 10 p.m.
Ocean, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Building, B150
In this lecture Ronald Wright will trace the roots of American expansion, arguing that the US has always been a deeply divided society, a polarity highlighted by the recent presidential election.
Seating is reserved and tickets must be booked in advance through the UVic Ticket Centre. Call 250-721-8480.
Fee: Free
Info: 250-721-7636 ucom@uvic.ca

FRIDAY, JAN. 23

AIESEC 101
All Day
David Strong Building, C112
This workshop is about working abroad and developing leadership and professional skills through volunteer opportunities on campus.
Fee: Free
Info: andreaduke2@gmail.com

SATURDAY, JAN. 24

Life Drawing
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Visual Arts Building, A150
$5 drop in fee. Please contact Suzanne at sbean@uvic.ca for further information. Open to the public. All skill levels welcome!
Fee: $5
Info: sbean@uvic.ca

TUESDAY, JAN. 27

Kathleen Ni Houlihan Writes Back
7:30 p.m.
David Strong Building, C122
Ellis Ni Dhuibhne, considered one of Ireland's most gifted fiction writers, examines the position of the Irish woman writer and women's literature in todays Ireland.
Fee: Free
Info: 250-721-7377

Tough Questions for Religions: Are Religions Inherently Violent?
4:30 - 6 p.m.
MacLaurin Building, David Lam Theatre
Three panelists will discuss the question: Are Religions Inherently Violent?
Fee: Free
Info: 250-721-8338 chaplain@uvic.ca

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 28

Making Western Canada Monogamous: Polygamy and Other Cracks in the Foundation for the Nation
7:30 - 10 p.m.
David Strong Building, C103
The History Department presents a Lansdowne Lecture by Dr. Sarah Carter
Fee: Free
Info: 250-721-7382 histds@uvic.ca

LIVE CONCERTS

THURSDAY, JAN. 22

OPEN TURNTABLES, w/ Jess Taylor @ The Cambie at the Esquimalt Inn
9 p.m. - 1 a.m.
We've got the Technics turntables, Serato, atmosphere, and cheap Cambie prices to turn your bedroom DJ dreams into reality. Just bring down a half hour's worth of vinyl and some friends to witness your "debut." (No Minors).
Fee: Free

Island Metal Feast Tour Kickoff: Archon Legion, Unleash The Archers, mother died today, Messiahs in Fiction @ Logan's Pub
10 p.m. - 1 a.m.
Tickets available at the door. (No Minors).
Fee: $10

FRIDAY, JAN. 23

The Best of Billie Holiday & Ella Fitzgerald Dee Daniels @ Alix Goolden Performance Hall
8 - 10 p.m., doors at 7:30 p.m.
The Legends Series is a celebration of women in music, highlighting some of the world's most recognizable artists of our time. (All Ages).
Fee: $22 to $40

The Rebel Spell, The Hoosegow, Start with the Cobra, The Outspoken Wordsmiths @ Camas Book and Infoshop
7:30 - 11 p.m., doors at 7 p.m.
(All Ages).
Fee: $7 in advance
$9 at the door

Gabriel Teodros, Kia Kadiri, Greenlaw Ave., CFC @ Lucky Bar
10:30 p.m. - 2 a.m., doors at 10 p.m.
(No Minors).
Fee: $12.50

James Lamb, The Opera Club @ The Solstice Cafe
8 - 10 p.m., doors at 7:30 p.m.
(All Ages).
Fee: $10 adults
$6 students

SATURDAY, JAN. 24

Winter Of Freedom, Hollydene, BULLETS IN OVERDRIVE @ The Cambie at the Esquimalt Inn
9 p.m. - 1 a.m.
(No Minors).
Fee: $5

Unplugged Classic Rock @ Heckler's Bar & Grill
9 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.
School of Rock plays an evening of unplugged classic rock and roll. (No Minors).
Fee: Free

Mowbray and Mills @ The Paisley Restaurant
8 - 10 p.m.
(All Ages).
Fee: Free

The Sultans of String, Qristina & Quinn Bachand @ St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
7:30 p.m., doors at 7 p.m.
(All Ages).
Fee: $20 adults
$15 students

CLASSIFIEDS

ROOF AND GUTTER INSPECTION, repairs, re-roofing, power washing, 380-5685, BBB.

ENGLISH TUTOR FOR help with ESL and essay writing. Bente, 592-8340, bentels@shaw.ca.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thursday, Jan. 22, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Military Family Resource Centre at The Colwood Pacific Activity Centre (CPAC) (2610 Rosebank Road).

This free one-day event will continue to build networking across community resources; promote the coordination of existing youth services throughout the CRD; promote youth engagement in facilitating youth access of these services; and focus on how youth are engaged in this strategy of coordination.

OPEN CALL FOR ARTISTS

Creative Discourses: Perspectives on Art and the Environment

Campus Community Art Show & Silent Auction March 2 - 6, 2009, at the University of Victoria Visual Arts Building.

This is an exciting event to showcase the arts and the environment. All mediums are welcome: photography, sculpture, painting, recycled art and more! For more information, or to submit a piece to the event, email creative@uvic.ca.

Films and Forums about Homelessness Jan. 24, 25 and 26 2009. All at Movie Monday's venue, except for the Monday 12:45 p.m., event at UVic.
Monday's Location: UVIC A240 Human and Social Development (HSD) Building.

Call Movie Monday about these events: 250-595-FLIC (250-595-3542).

THE MARTLET Seminar Series

Got a passion for questions? Whether you're ready to get involved with UVic's student newspaper, or just interested in learning more about journalism, now's your chance.

The Martlet will be hosting free workshops during the month of January for volunteers interested in getting involved, for those already involved and for people just curious about topics in journalism. Come on out, pick up some tips from those handy Martlet staff, and get ready to ask your questions.

All workshops are held in the Martlet office (SUB B011)

Seminar Schedule

Wednesday, Jan. 21, 10:00 a.m.
Learning about Radio Journalism
Radio Producers Sarah Towle and Samantha Magnus
Did you know the Martlet has a radio show? Interested in getting involved, or just in finding out how to turn your inquisitive know-how into a radio broadcast? Come and chat with the Martlet's radio producers for some tips and training on how you can expand your journalistic options.

Thursday, Jan. 22, 4:30 p.m.
The Art of Ledes and Conclusions
Editor-in-Chief Danielle Pope
Think intros are tough? You're not alone. Learn the art of crafting the phrases which become the first and second most important part of any journalistic piece: what draws readers in, and what readers are left with. It just might change your style.

Thursday, Jan. 22, 6:30 p.m.
Writing to Promote Awareness
Civics Editors Kim Magi and Cody Willett
Interested in social issues, in promoting change, in local and national politics? Talk to Kim and Cody to find out how to sniff out political stories, enhance your understanding of local issues and generate clippings in one of the most valuable beats for your journalistic portfolio.

Friday, Jan. 23, 11:00 a.m.
Media Law
Managing Editor Tim Lindsay
Think you know enough when it comes to publishing your pieces? How about what counts as libel, and what counts as a defense? Let Tim show you the ins and outs of media law, its importance in the journalistic workplace, and tactics around knowing your rights.

Wednesday, Jan. 28, 3:00 p.m.
Ethics in Journalism
Managing Editor Tim Lindsay
Journalists ask tough questions everyday, but what about when the tough question falls on the journalist? How do you know when something is really "off the record," or if it's appropriate to report on a story that's only rumoured to be true? Let Tim answer your tough questions about getting through one of the trickiest parts of journalism: ethics.

Thursday, Jan. 29, 4:30 p.m.
Finding an Alternative Voice
Editor-in-Chief Danielle Pope
What makes the voice of alternative media special? How can it work to promote social change and become a more creative outlet all at once? Talk with Danielle about issues surrounding alt-media, like learning how to spin alternative story ideas out of mainstream sources and adapting for alternative audiences.

Thursday, Jan. 29, 6:30 p.m.
Sports Reporting
Sports Editor Andrew Smith
Got a passion for sports but not sure you know the lingo? Let Andrew show you just how easy it is to get into this fun and challenging newspaper beat. Learn how to generate unique questions for avoiding those coach-stock answers, and pick up some tips on writing sports reviews that grab readers' attention.

Friday, Jan. 30, 10:30 a.m.
Writing the News Beat
News Editors Sam Vanschie and Kailey Willetts
Hard news, soft news, investigative and service journalism. Learn how to do it all. Talk with the Martlet News Editors to examine one of the toughest and most rewarding beats of a newspaper, and find out what story ideas make the pitch to build an impressive portfolio.

Friday, Jan. 30, 2:00 p.m.
Making Arts Relevant
Living Editor Gemma Karstens-Smith
Want to learn how to write interesting show reviews, create dynamic profiles and craft previews that leap off the page? Let Gemma show you how to avoid arts writing clichés, and create pieces that relate to readers.

Friday, Jan. 30, 4:00 p.m.
Publishing Your Graphics
Graphics Editor Jennifer Zhou and Production Assistant Marc Junker
Into art? Newspapers need you! Let Jennifer and Marc teach you the steps on how to prepare your graphics and cartoons for print and digital media, as well as some tips and training on how to learn about conceptualizing graphics from stories, and how you can get involved in an integral part of any newspaper: the art.

Saturday, Jan. 31, 3:00 p.m.
Opinions Make the World Go 'Round
Opinions Editor Will Johnson
Got something to say? Put your pen to paper for the opinions section. Talk to Will about crafting informed op-eds which educate while telling a story and can leave readers fired up.

Coming up

A Photo's Worth a Thousand
Photo Editor Josh Thompson
Like taking photos? Why not get them published? Let Josh show you how you can turn your creative edge into the captured moments of a newspaper. From sports photography to profile shots, images can make or break those headlines — learn how.

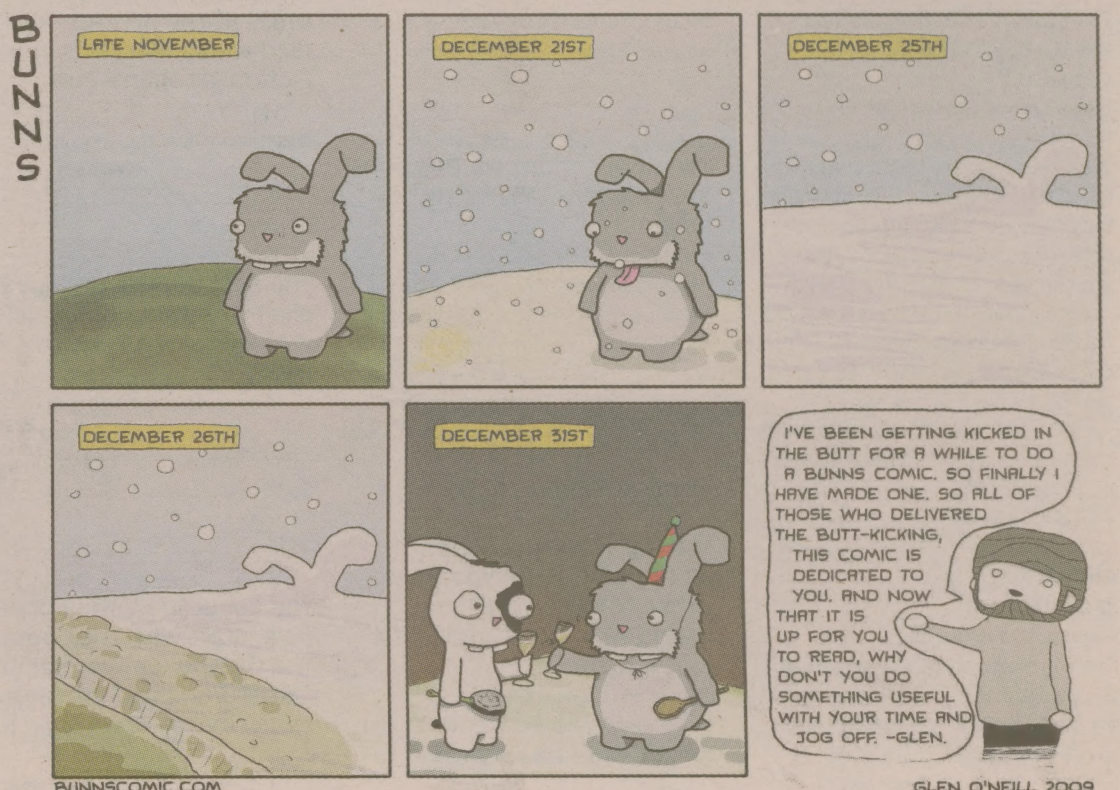
Paper Perfection
Copy Editor Courtney Smith
Learn tips and tricks on how to perfect your copy-editing skills for every section of the newspaper. Let Courtney answer your questions on subjects ranging from Canadian Press style, to the critical role copy-editing plays in the paper, to just getting started.

Layout Dynamics
Production Co-ordinator Jodie Thomson
Layout may be one of the last steps to getting a paper to print, but it's also one of the most important. Let Jodie enlighten you on what makes a technically-sound paper, how to perfect your headline structure and how to create visually-dynamic pages.

Comics

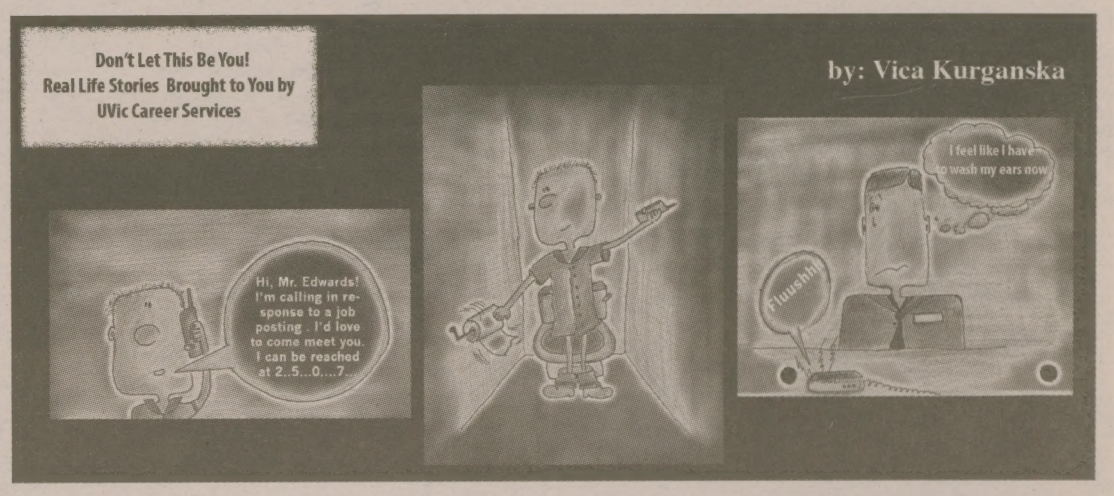
Viking Adventure II
Let me pass foul beast!
No.
to be concluded in...
Part III: Revenge of the Viking!

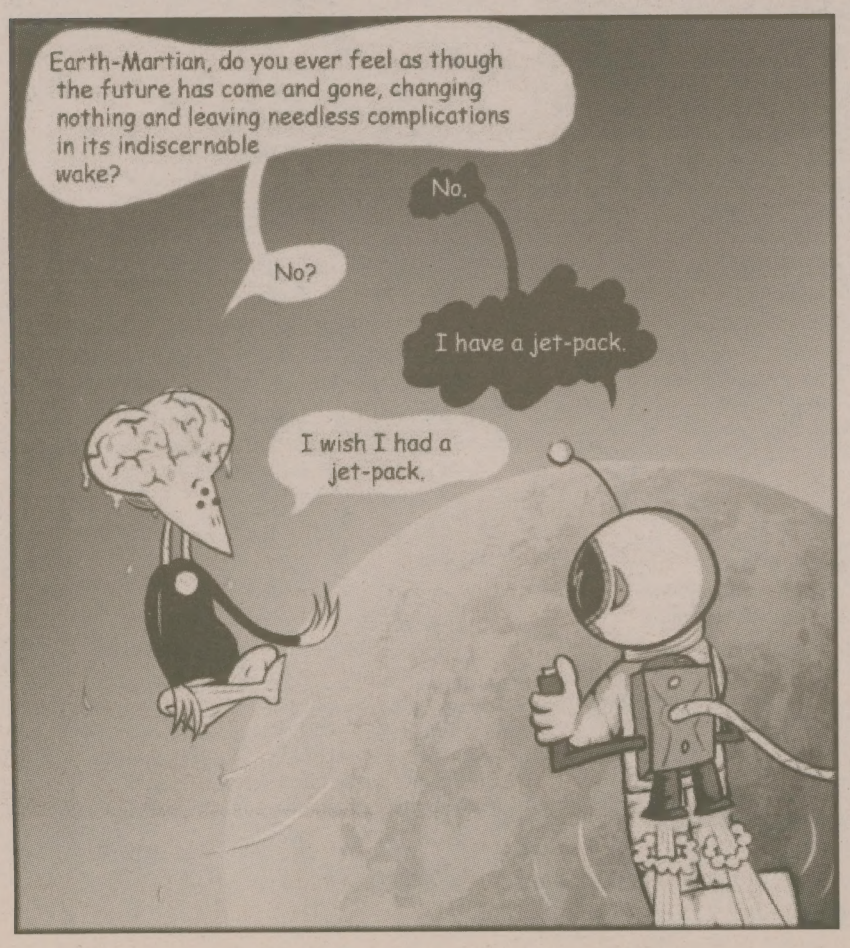
CORP EVIL
I once decided to get a pet goldfish.
The fish didn't like my company so the next day, it attempted suicide...
...which lead to my million dollar idea: The fish collar.
$$$

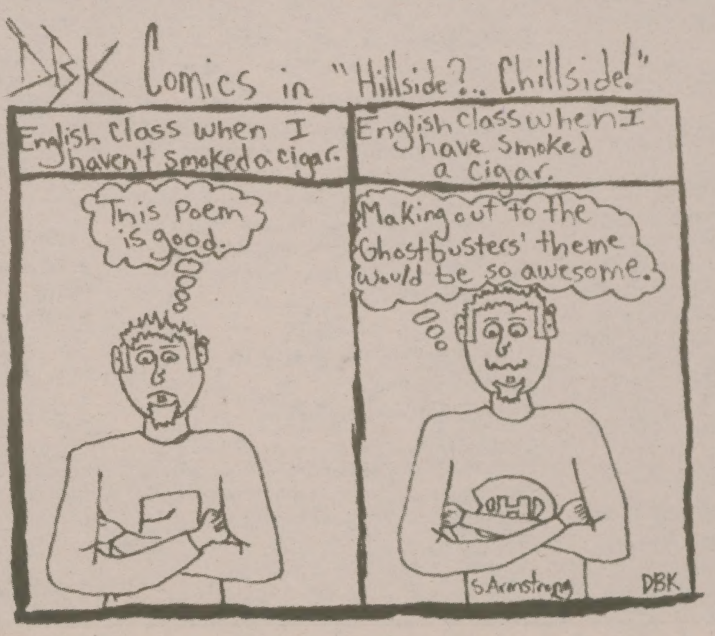

BUNNS
LATE NOVEMBER
DECEMBER 21ST
DECEMBER 25TH
DECEMBER 26TH
DECEMBER 31ST
I'VE BEEN GETTING KICKED IN THE BUTT FOR A WHILE TO DO A BUNNS COMIC. SO FINALLY I HAVE MADE ONE. SO ALL OF THOSE WHO DELIVERED THE BUTT-KICKING, THIS COMIC IS DEDICATED TO YOU. AND NOW THAT IT IS UP FOR YOU TO READ, WHY DON'T YOU DO SOMETHING USEFUL WITH YOUR TIME AND JOG OFF. -GLEN.
BUNNSCOMIC.COM
GLEN O'NEILL 2009

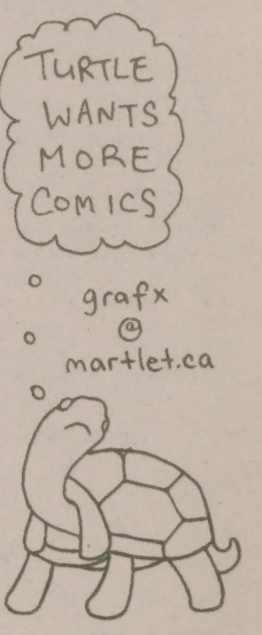
Smith vs. Smith: "Strong Women"
by Matt Smith!
The women on this show are so stupid!
They are all ruled by their emotions!
Just like all women.
SMACK
Case in point.
©MattSmith! 2009

NORTH-EAST LYNX
So I missed the big inauguration! How was it? How big were the flames? Did people scream?
Dude. Barack Obama? The presidency? C'mon.
Inauguration doesn't mean a huge fire...
Oooooohh!
northeastlynx@gmail.com


Don't Let This Be You!
Real Life Stories Brought to You by UVic Career Services
by: Vica Kurganska
Hi, Mr. Edwards! I'm calling in response to a job posting. I'd love to come meet you. I can be reached at 2..5...0....7...
I feel like I have to wash my ears now
Flushhh


Earth-Martian, do you ever feel as though the future has come and gone, changing nothing and leaving needless complications in its indiscernable wake?
No.
No?
I have a jet-pack.
I wish I had a jet-pack.


DBK Comics in "Hillside?.. Chillside!"
English class when I haven't smoked a cigar.
This Poem is good.
English class when I have smoked a cigar.
Making out to the Ghostbusters' theme would be so awesome.
S.Armstrong
DBK


TURTLE WANTS MORE COMICS
grafx @ martlet.ca